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Los Angeles: 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., Third Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90069, 310/854-2222

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Detroit: 333 West Fort Street, Suite 1800, Detroit, MI 48226, 313/964-6680

Chicago: 815 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60610, 312/649-0660

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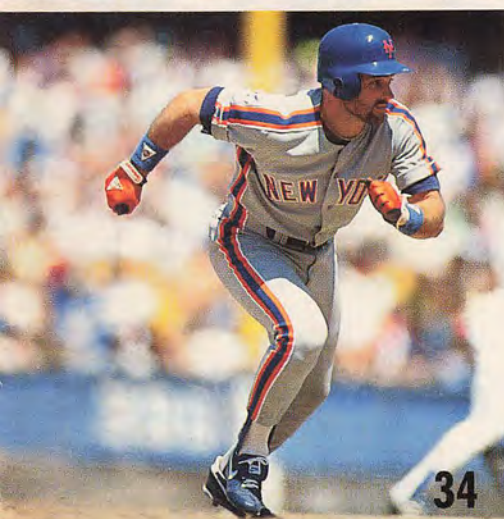
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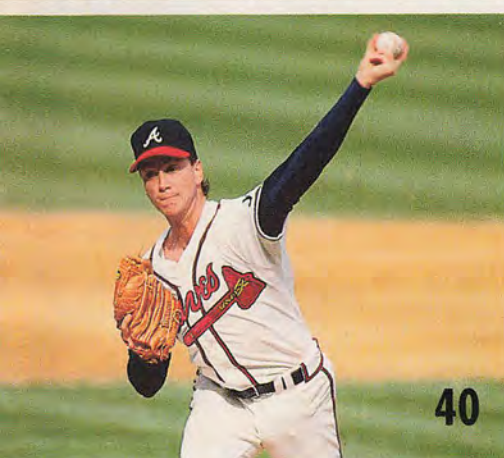




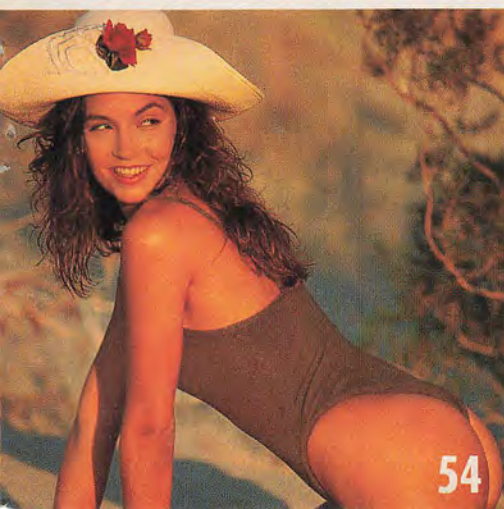
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SPORT

MARCH 1992

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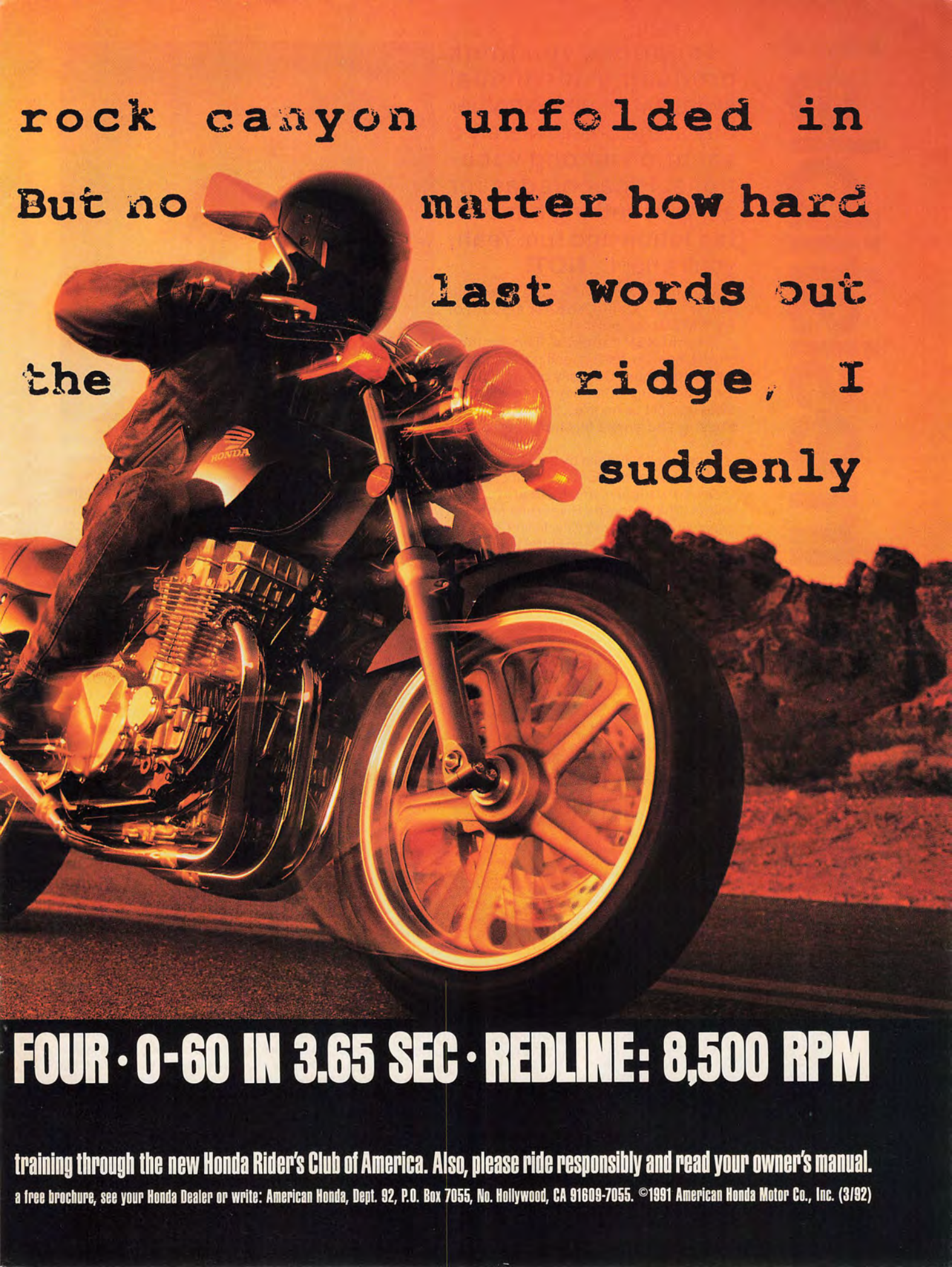
COVER: PHOTOGRAPH OF APRIL STORMS BY DAVID MCEY

Mile after mile of red
front of my handlebars.
I tried, I couldn't get her
of my head. As I came over
kicked it into fifth and
I couldn't hear a word
she said.



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simply irresistible!

I suppose you think producing our annual swimsuit issue is another day at the office. Merely a vacation among vacations. Piña coladas for all, with nothing but suntan lotion and fun. Yeah, you're right...**NOT!**

Laughlin. Southern Nevada's new and radiant star. Could it be? The South of France? Monte Carlo?

Psych! Not! Laughlin. Ten casinos strong, boating, fishing, golfing, hiking and camping. Whew! So many different looks for a sprawling "little" city that is only 300 miles east of Los Angeles, 240 northwest of Phoenix and a mere 80 chips short of Vegas.

If you visit Laughlin by air, you'll fly into Bullhead City, Arizona. Don't worry. It's only two minutes from Laughlin, and there are really no bullheads. The Colorado River runs right between Laughlin and Bullhead City. In fact, from my hotel room at Harrah's Casino Hotel Laughlin, I could see beyond the river to the airport and Bullhead City.

When you talk about Laughlin and the Colorado River, you have to include Harrah's Casino Hotel Laughlin. Situated two miles below Davis Dam and a simple post pattern from the



Monday night in early October, a notch below the oversized dollar slot, which was really smokin'. You see, hotel advertising/direct marketing manager Lisa McCabe put together a Monday-night-football autograph-signing party that was second to none. Our models, Symba, April and Rachel, signed books, hats, shirts and Polaroids into the night. A special **SPORT** thanks to Lisa and director of marketing Mary Shick for their gracious hospitality, patience and ideas.

Surrounding Harrah's Laughlin is the city of Laughlin. Not big in population, just style. We're talking mondo style. Splendor, Colorado River, southern-Nevada style.

The kind of style that makes guys such as Jim and Bob at Del Rio Beach Club give up their Saturday to lend a helping hand to the cause. Good-neighbor style such as houseboat captain Dwight Allen, who gave up his two days off at the Lake Mohave Resort to personally see to it that we had a "dock-ramming" darn good time. We can't forget Richard Hanna and Dave Eberle, also of Lake Mohave, who held

the rain clouds away long enough for our shoot. And extra thanks to a blackjack dealer named Al, who kept everyone entertained with a wit as sharp as a cactus spine.

OK, to the shoot. Reigning 1991 national "Star Search" spokesmodel **Symba Smith** from Gulfport, Mississippi, would easily be my choice for the next Scarlett O'Hara. However, I don't recall any swimsuit scenes in "Gone With the Wind." Do you? Meanwhile, Chicago native and No. 1 Bears fan **Raquel Gardner**, now a Southern Californian, thought "Da Bears" had a good shot winning Super Bowl XXVI. As the pride and joy of Blythe, California, **Rachel Wolven** knows the appeal of a small town. So the switch to Laughlin for a week was a cakewalk. Make that a birthday cakewalk. Rachel celebrated number—you know I can't reveal—on the shoot. Cover model **April Storms** felt at home in Laughlin, which has only three stoplights. You see, there is only one light in her native Bladenboro, North Carolina. Grueling as the week



Bullhead City airport, Harrah's Laughlin was ideal for our crew to hang their sombreros and G-strings. Water skiing on the river, waging in the spacious casino or rounding the day out at any one of the hotel's five quality restaurants, Harrah's Laughlin was a perfect choice.

The truth is Harrah's Laughlin was hot! In fact, Club La Bamba, located inside the hotel, was the second-hottest place one



was, being physically fit was a plus. Don't get me wrong; everyone was in great swimsuit shape. But Los Angeles Raiderette **Debbie Dobbins** was really in shape. She regularly competes in fitness competitions around the country. The Raiderettes proved to be such an outstanding connection (last year, Raiderette Brooke Morales was our featured cover model) that we couldn't help but feel excited when not one, but two Raiderettes were selected to participate in this year's shoot. Our second Raiderette, Californian **Tani Chavez**, a Sophia Loren double—I swear—was naturally at home modeling swimwear. **Annalee Tarr**, a relative newcomer to modeling, landed this shoot less than a year after leaving her native Oregon for L.A. Not bad for a pretty model with an outstanding singing voice.

Oh, sure, shooting the swimsuit issue seems dangerous to those of you at home. Suntan lotion clogging the pores; chilled margaritas freezing the sinuses; plastic poolside chairs imprinting tanned backs. But after all, we are professionals, and, statistically speaking, you're much safer on a swimsuit shoot than in a Vegas casino.

You know, it never would surprise me to wake up and find that the sun wasn't angled the way we wanted it, or the wind was gusting too strongly into the models' faces. Assistants David Goodman and Billy White attended to those not-so-minor details. David just might find a way to tweak the sun a bit here and a bit there, and Billy might hold up a mile-high windbreak to keep things calm. Well, all exaggerations aside, David couldn't really move the sun, and Billy's windbreak would be only a half-mile high.

Always-working seems to best describe makeup artist Christine Rogers. Talk all you want about the beautiful models—no arguments here. But Christine took them a step further. She made them breathtaking. Simply irresistible! Helping to coordinate the swimsuit activities, such as fitting, arranging, styling and sometimes improvising, was Kathleen Konior, who kept fashions always at their best. By the end of the week, even the crew was stylin'. And speaking of stylin', we were kept in a constant reality check by videographer Paul Gordon, who showed the video dailies for the crew to review and enjoy.

There were many people and products responsible for the success of this year's swimsuit issue. Of course, the most obvious are the suits and manufacturers, namely Twins-Miami, Body Glove, Rose Marie Reid, Bill Blass Beachwear, Venus Swimwear, Bauer Precision Inline Skates, Mr. Radio, as well as a host of other manufacturers and vendors. Film was supplied by the photogenic people at Eastman Kodak—namely Paul Curtis

and Jeff Notte. For you shutterbugs, the film used was Ektachrome EPX 64 and EPZ 100. Each roll of the new X film was rated at its appropriate ASA/ISO. Put some rolls in today, and see if your results aren't as good as ours.

Finally, if you missed the CBS airing of "Posing" last November or didn't happen to catch a glimpse of the January centerfold in "Playboy" or weren't eating



restaurant where he was discussing his new screenplay, you probably haven't seen or heard of photographer David Mecey.

David was hit smack in the middle of his head with a falling star a year ago, and since then, his career has been on the move quicker than those killer bees from Africa.

David never met an angle or shot he didn't like. He probably hasn't met too many people who didn't like him and his down-home appeal and good nature either. A sharpshooting, natural-light kind of guy, David combines his many years as a photographer with his understanding of the lines and curves of the female body to produce amazing results.

Well, turn up the AC as the heat begins to rise. It's the 1992 **SPORT** swimsuit issue. Symba, Rachel, Raquel, April, Debbie, Tani and Annalee, a starting lineup that any team would love to field.

I think you'll agree. This is the best swimsuit issue you'll see this year. I'll bet on that. If you were at Harrah's Laughlin right now, the odds would be even money. Because, folks, everyone knows that with this year's swimsuit issue, you just can't lose. ★

Ira Gabriel
Picture Editor

CONTACTS

Harrah's Casino Hotel Laughlin
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COWBOYS RIDING HIGH

Your January 1992 issue and its NFL section was like an 80-yard run—but you fumbled at the goal line. Yes, Jim Kelly (pictured) and the Buffalo Bills are awesome, and Jeff George is destined for greatness. But the “next Joe Montana” and the true offense of the '90s are in Dallas. Troy Aikman, Steve Beuerlein, Emmitt Smith.... I could go on forever. Jimmy Johnson is building the Cowboys into the NFL's next powerhouse.

Bobby Abutel
Tallahassee, Florida

ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Jeff Weinstock's piece on Chris Mullin was superb. I found it both moving and informative. I have been a great fan of Chris Mullin's since his earliest days at St. John's University, and he will continue to be an idol and inspiration to me long after his glory days on the hardwood. His determination should be an example to us all. My only regret is that he is not a Knick.

Billy Shaw
Little Neck, New York

MOONLIGHTING PROS

I have to respond to the comment in your players' poll made by the 49ers' Steve Wallace about the question concerning the two-sport athlete (“The Players Speak,” January). He says businessmen have two jobs, so why not athletes? What's he talking about? I don't think many businesses pay a year's salary to people who only work for six months.

Norman Wong
Glendale, California

MAGIC AT THE BAT

No matter what Magic

CARL SKALAK



Johnson says, the toughest thing in sports is not hitting a baseball (SPORT Talk, November). It's hitting a hockey puck. In the first place, you're on skates and ice; most people couldn't even stay up, let alone hit a puck. Secondly, hitting a hockey puck with any authority takes tremendous balance and coordination. You're not just standing there, as you are with a baseball bat; you're zipping across the ice when you take your shot.

Michael Fagan
West Babylon, New York

PUCK PROBLEMS

In Kelly Garrett's hockey article, “Problems, Problems” (January '92), it was suggested that the NHL division names be changed to

West, Atlantic, Northeast and Central. I think that would be a crime against the sport of hockey. The NHL is full of tradition, and that's why the conferences, divisions and awards bear the names of the great people associated with the game. To follow Garrett's suggestions would be to deny the NHL greats' accomplishments and contributions. The tradition is what makes the NHL great, and it can keep it that way for another 75 years.

John Leak
Amistad, New Mexico

I want to thank you and Kelly Garrett for highlighting the poor television coverage of hockey. As to the assertion that no one ever plays hockey, I just want to say that where I live, the coldest

it ever gets is around 40 degrees. We still have at least four different ice rinks in the area, and people *do* play hockey—even in Florida.

Paul Knowles
West Palm Beach, Florida

McMOUTH

I'm so glad Tim McKyer (One on One, January) is playing where he's happy. That would be the Land of The Big Mouths, or any franchise coached by Jerry Glanville. McKyer is not all that hot, and he should concentrate on making the Pro Bowl rather than shooting his mouth off.

Rafael Rodriguez
Chicago, Illinois

TURF BATTLE

I want to comment on SPORT's thoughts about getting rid of artificial turf (On SPORT, January). Back when artificial turf was introduced, the entire sporting press hyped the stuff because it was supposed to cut down on injuries. Now you all hate artificial turf because it supposedly causes more injuries. I wish you'd make up your minds and stop complaining.

M.R. Rosenlof
Carson, California

INDIANA VS. HARLEM

In the January issue, you referred to Pete Axthelm's book “The City Game” (On SPORT, January). You said that there is no better basketball than that played in Harlem, the focus of the book. Come on. No place in the country sees better basketball than the state of Indiana.

Joe DeKeever
Mishawaka, Indiana

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Bob Hurley

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Bob Hurley



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SPORT TALK

NEWS & NOTES ★ FACTS & FIGURES ★ PLAYERS & PLACES ★ TRIVIA & TRENDS

A STAR FOR WHO?

Who the heck is Jim Healy, and how did he end up with a star on Hollywood Boulevard?

As for the first part of the question, Jim Healy ought to be a national institution. As it is, the sports commentator is little known outside of Southern California, but around his home turf, he sends out more tremors than the area's earthquakes.

No present Los Angeles sports broadcaster has been around as long—Healy's been at it for more than 40 years—and his show enjoys a cult-like status. With a nasal, rapid-fire newsroom style that evokes memories of Walter Winchell, Healy specializes in the behind-the-scenes story and commentary on the events of the day. He intersperses news bits with cuts from underground tapes that perfectly punctuate his items while puncturing inflated egos with a merciless humor.

When the Dodgers or their manager screws up, on comes the recorded voice of Tommy Lasorda, yelling, "This bleepin' job ain't that bleepin' easy." Stupid bellicosity is confronted with a tape from the past of the Philadelphia Eagles' Jerome Brown, when he played for the University of Miami and led a walkout from a pre-Fiesta Bowl dinner after Penn State players ridiculed then-Miami coach Jimmy Johnson's hair-style: "Did the Japanese sit down and eat dinner with Pearl Harbor before they bombed 'em?"

Healy has an incredible library of such tapes, and he's the de facto cura-

tor of a great collection of contemporary recorded sports history, most of it embarrassingly hilarious. More significantly, Healy is the most brutal critic of pomposity in the world of sport, and he deserves a wider audience.

Ruminations on Healy were rendered especially relevant late last year, when he was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard. And while the guy is undeniably great, he is just a local. Howard Cosell, for instance, who had a much wider impact on sports broadcasting, is nowhere to be found on the boulevard. The only other contemporary sportscasters represented are Dodgers announcer Vin Scully and Lakers play-by-play man Chick Hearn. No Red Barber. No Mel Allen.



How is it that Jim Healy rates a star, joining the likes of Thomas Edison, Cary Grant and Gene Autry?

According to Ana Martinez-Holler, who oversees these matters for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the criteria are pretty simple. The individual has to be famous and involved in show business or the broadcast media.

"They have to demonstrate longevity in the field of entertainment," she says of the personalities named on the 1,948 stars set into the Hollywood Boulevard sidewalk. "Or win awards, like Grammys or Emmies. And they have to be well-known nationally."

That brings us back to Healy. Why him? He's indisputably local.

"We have a lot of local newsmen," says Martinez-Holler. "We also se-

lect local celebrities; this is Hollywood, where it all started."

So you have to be famous nationally or a Los Angeles-area celebrity. Think of it as a home-field advantage.

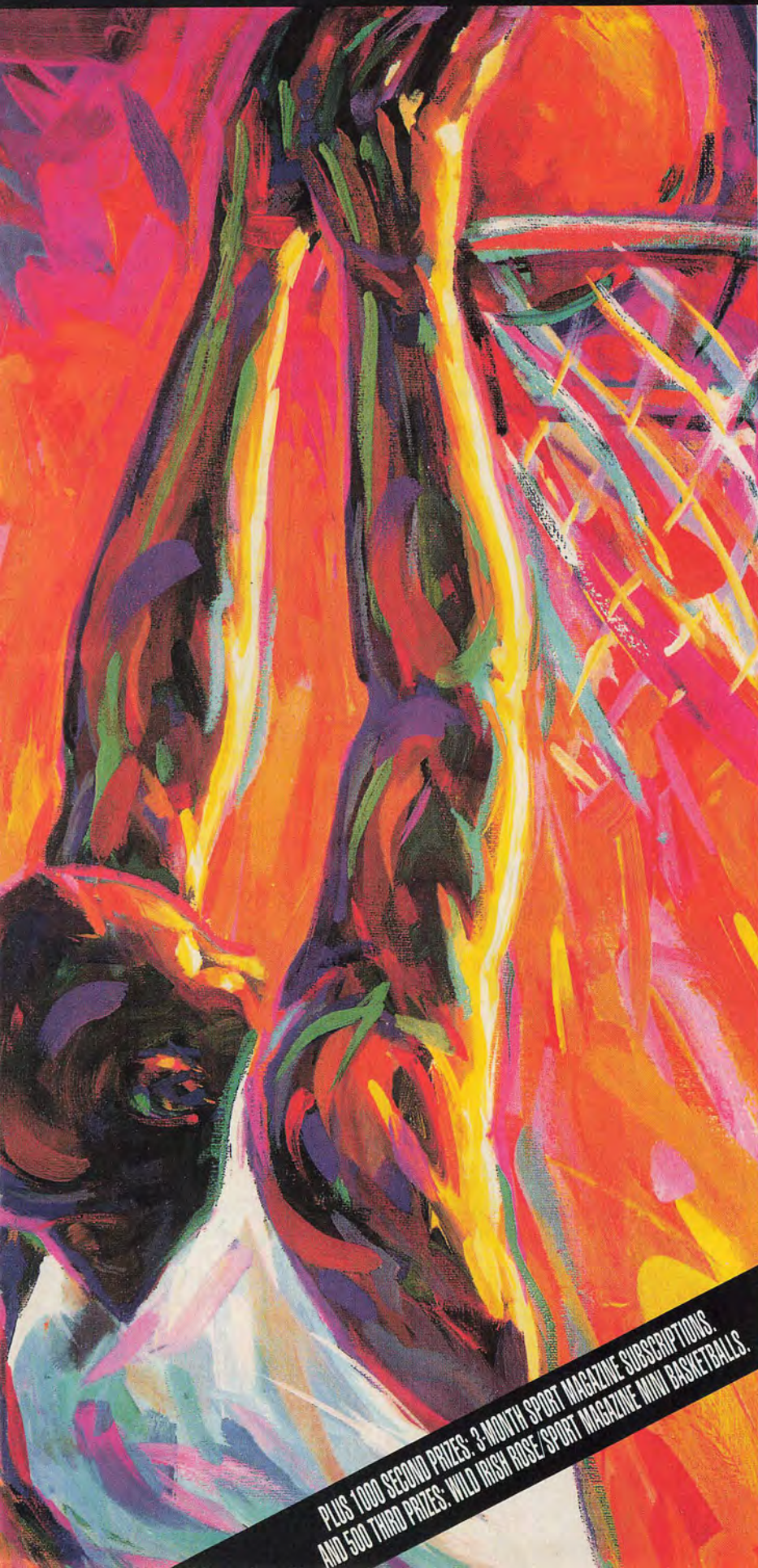
But that only explains why Jim Healy made it. What happened to the national sports broadcasters who haven't?

"They've probably never been nominated," says Martinez-Holler. All it takes to do that is for anyone—a fan, a busybody, the individual himself—to suggest a name to the Hollywood Walk of Fame Nominating Committee, which then votes on the candidate.

So we'll make it official right now. SPORT nominates Red Barber, Mel Allen and Howard Cosell. We like Jim Healy a lot, and he needs some more company.

—T.M.

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SPORT TALK

HOOPIN' IT UP

It's the biggest basketball tournament in the country—and it's not the NCAA's March Madness or the NBA playoffs. It's the "Hoop It Up" three-on-three tournament, which gets under way in March and hits 40 cities.

Whether you're a former NBA player who misses the game and qualifies for the Top Gun Division, or a couch potato who lives vicariously through NBA slam dunks, this tournament pro-

vides the opportunity to play some relatively serious basketball. Anyone is eligible, and you can sign up at recreation centers, select retailers and NBA games. According to Hoop It Up founder Terry Murphy, the only requirement is that "you have to be alive and over 10 years old; it helps if you can dribble."

Some 25,000 teams are gearing up for the fourth year of national competition. A computer ranking system seeds teams according to the ability, age and

experience of the players to ensure relative parity in the hundreds of divisions. The top teams qualify for the national finals in the fall.

Each team includes three players and one substitute. Murphy, who runs the tournament from Dallas, has fielded a team with Roger Staubach and former NBA player Tom McMillen. Even the Utah Jazz's Karl Malone played in a Dallas tournament with his high school buddies. Says Murphy, "It's fun for him; he likes to show off."
—P.K. Daniel



Stand Up, Stand Out.



SPORT TALK

BAD AND BEAUTIFUL

One look at Kathy Long in a swimsuit, and you know she didn't get that body sitting on a beach. Highly defined musculature displays itself like neon on a dark night: big firm deltoids, a rippled stomach, tight, bulging calves. She could pass for a bodybuilder—a still feminine one—but she seldom lifts weights. How'd she get this body?

"I'm the undisputed, four-time featherweight women's world kickboxing champion," she says.

Her fitness regimen includes one-arm pushups, thousands of repetitions of abdominal exercises and 10-mile runs. Such workouts are the foundation of a career as one of the world's premier kickboxers. Long will attempt to maintain that status when she goes for a fifth world title. On March 16, at the Las Vegas Hilton, she'll fight for the World Martial Arts Challenge Association Championship in a pay-per-view telecast.

"Some people don't take me seri-

ously until they see me fight," she says. "They think what I do is like those Foxy Boxers, with the big padded gloves and big padded breasts. I'm an athlete and a warrior—not a dancer or a floozy."

She may, however, be on her way to an acting career. She just recently finished filming "Batman Returns," in which she was Michelle Pfeiffer's stunt double for Catwoman's fight scenes. Now she's getting offers to star in her own films, an idea considered excellent by another kickboxing actor.

"I like her face," says Jean-Claude Van Damme, veteran of several shoot-'em-up-and-kick-'em-down flicks. "She'll be great in movies. She has a broken nose that gives her a very real kind of beauty."

—Worth Barber

WILL HART



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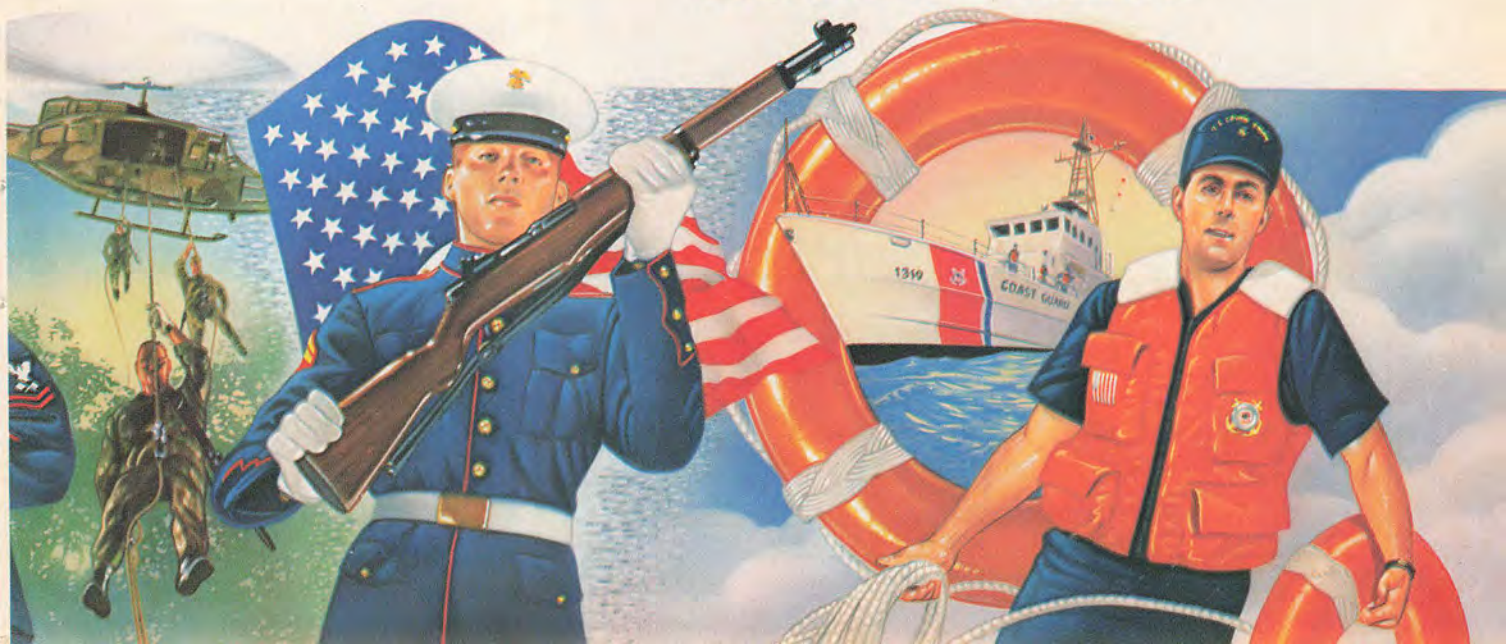
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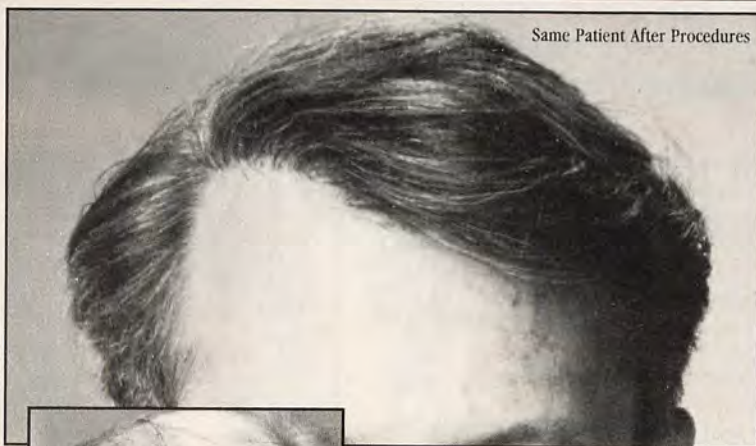
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NOTRE DAME NO DREAM ANYMORE

For the ultimate overachiever in a sport that demands long hours and lofty dreams, Xavier University basketball coach Pete Gillen has emerged as an unlikely symbol of tempered ambition. All because he said, "No."

Until his Xavier Musketeers win the NCAA championship—or pigs fly—Gillen will be known as the man who snubbed Notre Dame.

When Gillen took himself out of the running last spring to succeed Digger Phelps, the college basketball world recoiled in shock. Gillen's decision seemed all the more improbable because it was the job he'd wanted for nearly 20 years. From his days as a high school basketball player in Brooklyn, through college and his early coaching jobs, Gillen saw the Notre Dame position as the ultimate success.

"There was a time when getting that job was the most important thing in my life," says Gillen, "but not anymore. I realized it simply didn't matter, that I'm not that kid who has to prove himself anymore. It's not all that important to me to get to the Final Four."

"This doesn't mean I'm no longer competitive," Gillen says. "It just means that at 44 years of age, I'm trying to strike a little balance in my life."

By staying at the small Cincinnati Catholic school, Gillen unwittingly turned up the heat on himself. After five conference titles in six years, Xavier fans are thinking in loftier terms. But any real leap to the big time may be years away.

"I know this will never be Notre Dame," says Gillen. "We're never going to be that big, that well-known. At Notre Dame, they sell reality. At Xavier, I'm selling a dream." —Keith Dunnivant



BLACKS AND BASEBALL

Officials in baseball commissioner Fay Vincent's headquarters are chewing over a study conducted by graduate students at UCLA's John Anderson School of Management that finds African-American and other minority fans attending fewer games these days. Some estimates have put black patronage of major-league games in the low single-digit-percent-age range of total fans.

"They talked to all the clubs and their marketing and public relations people to find out what they are doing about this issue," Major League Baseball spokesman Jim Small says of the survey.

According to Small, the UCLA students talked to minority focus groups comprised of people who didn't go to baseball games. "People who are already coming to ballparks aren't who we're looking at," says Small.

As to the results—comprehensive explanations as to why there are so few black or minority fans and what can be done about it—they're being withheld.

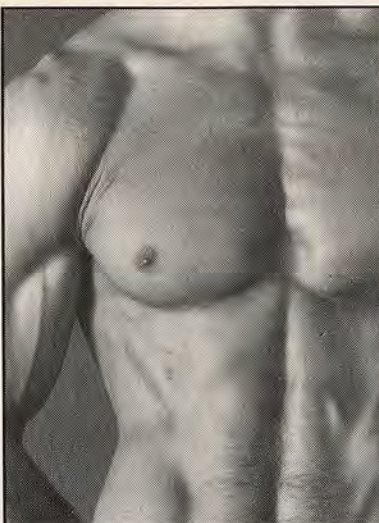
But the Cubs' Andre Dawson and the Padres' Tony Gwynn have their own opinions about the phenomenon, reflecting perspectives common to the black community. According to these stars, it has nothing to do with high prices and economically disadvantaged communities. Subtle hostility and basketball typically get the blame.

Dawson attributes falling minority interest to an antagonistic environment. "Most [minority] fans don't feel welcome at the ballparks," he says. "It's sad."

Gwynn disagrees. "I don't buy that," he says. He blames the decline on the growing popularity of basketball. "The rise of the NBA is definitely one of the causes."

As for baseball's conclusions and remedies, we'll have to wait and see.

—George Castle



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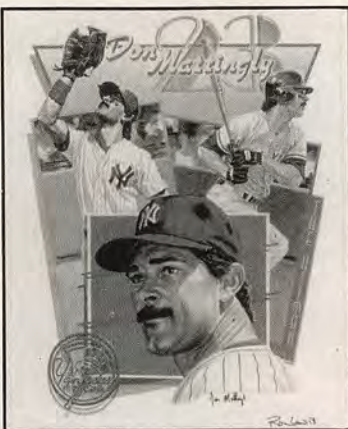
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OLYMPIC HEROES OF '92 OVERCOMING LIFE'S HURDLES

Despite an error or two, Gail Devers sped to a silver medal in the 100-meter hurdles at August's World Track and Field Championships in Tokyo. A fortnight later in Berlin, she soared over the hurdles in 12.48 seconds to surpass the U.S. record she shared with her training partner, Jackie Joyner-Kersey. "Everything came together two weeks too late," she says.

Still, the silver was a major blow to Eastern European hurdles hegemony, and the Berlin clocking indicates that the 25-year-old Devers is a solid gold prospect at the Barcelona Olympics. A former Pan Am Games and NCAA champ in the 100-meter dash, Devers is the fastest combination sprinter-hurdler in history and, at 5-foot-3, presumably the shortest.

After a spate of sterling performances in 1988, Devers seemed destined to be a track and field star. She failed, alas, to make the Olympic hurdles final in Seoul. She was already in the throes of a mysterious ailment that would wipe out two years of athletics and nearly kill her.

Devers suffered a litany of gruesome symptoms, but it suffices to say that she had a severe case of Graves Disease, the thyroid disorder that also afflicts President and Mrs. Bush. At one point, Devers almost had to have her feet amputated.

"My dream has come true: I'm on the road to recovery," she says. "I'm a more positive person. A lot of things I don't take for granted, like simply walking."

Thinking about Barcelona gold and a world record, Devers says: "I went through the jitters [in Seoul]. I know what it takes to make a final. It won't be a shock." After the travails Devers has suffered, the Olympics should be a snap.

—Peter Gambaccini

ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/NBA PHOTOS



COACH COOPER

When former Laker Michael Cooper was a struggling free-throw shooter in high school, he went to a Jerry West Basketball Camp and learned the tricks to become a career 83-percent free-throw shooter in the NBA.

Nearly 20 years later, he's still learning.

In his first year out of uniform, Coop is now discovering a new game as the Lakers' special assistant to the general manager, who just happens to be the very same Jerry West.

"I'm learning what makes a great organization like the Lakers run," says Cooper. "The ins and outs of the salary cap, working with agents."

For 12 years, Cooper played point guard, shooting guard, small forward and just about any role the Lakers needed him to fill. Now Cooper does it all again. He evaluates college talent, does some NBA scouting, team marketing, community-service work, and he's an occasional assistant coach during practices.

"I'm getting a taste of everything," says Cooper, who wants to be a head coach one day. "At what level? I'm trying to determine that. My alma mater would be a great place to start—hint, hint—the University of New Mexico."

Friend and former teammate Magic Johnson says he'd like to own an NBA franchise. Have they discussed a little mutual front-office action? "That has come up," says Cooper, "but there's nothing substantial. Right now the concern is the [Lakers]."

However, Cooper does say, "If Magic buys his own club, I would inquire about becoming a coach." —Darryl Howerton

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SPORT TALK

MINNEAPOLIS, THE CHAMPIONSHIP CITY

"It's been an unbelievable year for us," says Peter Hedlund, the vice president of sales for the Greater Minneapolis Convention Visitors Association. "People couldn't be more excited."

He refers to the remarkable coincidence of planning and chance that has brought to his city—in the space of a year—six major sports championships. It started with the 1990-91 Stanley Cup finals; then came the U.S. Open Golf Tournament, the Special Olympics, the World Series and Super Bowl XXVI. Now the city's waiting on the 1992 Final Four. It's not only fun for the locals; big money's at stake too.

While the baseball postseason brought in about \$3 million per game to the local economy, the Super Bowl, says Hedlund, was worth at least \$130 million, and the Final Four should bring in around \$120 million. And those, he says, are conservative estimates. —T.M.

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM



ON THE SIDELINE

by Robert Myers

A BRIEF & SUNDRY LOOK AT

Free Agency

OK, so Bobby Bonilla will make 29 mil over 5 years while the rest of us will be buying our clothes at the Salvation Army...

Believe it or not, in 1889 J.M. Ward of the New York National League team led a **PLAYER REVOLT** resulting in the establishment

of a new league owned and operated by the players and aptly named the Players League. According to The Ultimate Baseball Book, "The Players League had the National League on its knees, but

the only ones seemingly on their knees in 1992 are the people prepared to pay the higher ticket prices Bonilla's contract will require!!!

The ballpark was once the common man's sanctuary, but it has become out of his economic reach.

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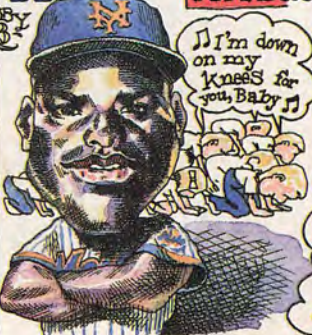
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a father of 2 should have to skip a car payment to attend a game. Baseball's free agency is a **B**hoax. No team can field a product on its own. It takes 2 teams on a field in a game to make the product, i.e. Major League baseball. Far from being competitors, teams like the Yankees and Posox couldn't EXIST without the other!!

So this year—when you're about to go to a game, think twice, and maybe...

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(GRP) 33286

The Police: Every
Breath You Take—
The Singles
(A&M) 73924

Dying Young/Sdtrk.
(Arista) 73769

Bon Jovi:
New Jersey
(Mercury) 00516

Pump Up The
Volume/Sdtrk.
(MCA) 44606

Depeche Mode:
Violator
(Sire) 73408



Randy
Travis: High
Lonesome
11075

Daryl Hall &
John Oates:
Change Of Season
(Arista) 00543

Yes: Union
(Arista) 10735

Neil Young:
Ragged Glory
(Reprise) 34621

Diana Ross:
The Force Behind
The Power
(Motown) 63680

The Doors/Sdtrk.
(Elektra) 54289

Heavy D &
The Boyz:
Peaceful Journey
(Uptown/MCA)
10920

Alabama:
Greatest Hits, Vol.2
(RCA) 44504



Paula Abdul:
Spellbound
73320

Frank Sinatra:
Sinatra Reprise/
The Very Good
Years
(Reprise) 80304

The Farm:
Spartacus
(Reprise/Sire) 14672

Squeeze: Play
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D.J. Jazzy Jeff &
The Fresh Prince:
Homebase
(Jive) 21073

Steely Dan: Gold
(MCA) 74339

Barry Manilow:
Showstoppers
(Arista) 64323

Roy Rogers:
Tribute
(RCA) 73608

k.d. lang And The
Reclines: Absolute
Torch And Twang
(Sire) 60257

Neil Diamond:
12 Greatest Hits
(MCA) 84050

Arista Records' 15th
Anniversary
Collection
(Arista) 54100

Dirty Dancing/Sdtrk.
(RCA) 82522

Carpenters:
Lovelines
(A&M) 24763

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(Warner) 60018

The Alarm:
Standards
(I.R.S.) 24765

Daryl Hall & John
Oates: Rock 'N
Soul, Part 1
(RCA) 13313

Another Bad
Creation: Coolin'
At The Playground
Ya Know!
(Motown) 10456

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OLYMPIC PINHEADS

Collecting Olympic pins used to be almost as exclusive an undertaking as competing in the games. That's because Olympic lapel pins were originally made for the athletes and officials involved, and the numbers were relatively small.

They started to proliferate as commemorative and promotional devices over the years, and since the 1980 Lake Placid Games, collecting pins has become a little-noticed mania. Says Don Bigsby, owner of roughly 8,000 pins and president of the Olympin Collectors Club of Schenectady, New York, "It's a way for the average guy to be a part of the Olympics."

At the '88 Winter Olympics in Calgary, some 17,000 people a day crowded through a trading center sponsored by Coca-Cola. Hundreds of millions of pins are already on order in Europe in anticipation of the Barcelona Games, and there was even a reported shortage of the back clasps for the pins late last year.

Bigsby says he wouldn't be surprised if a billion dollars or more were spent each year on the pin trade, but he understands incredulous responses to such big numbers.

"If you haven't been involved in this," he says, "you don't know it exists. It's probably the fastest growing hobby in the world."

Spoken like a true pinhead.

—T.M.

COURTESY OF COCA-COLA (2)

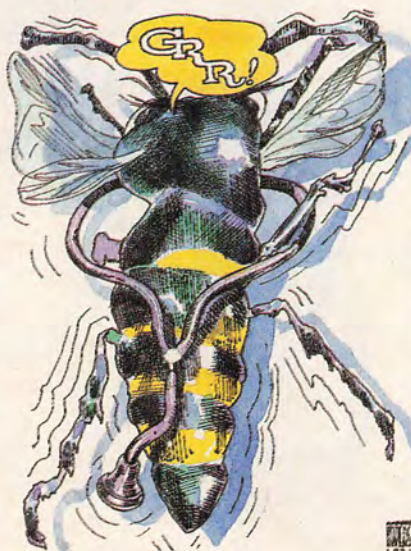


STING LIKE A BEE?

Georgia Tech's mascot, Buzz, is one of the most popular of the breed. The overgrown bumblebee was twice recognized as the best mascot in college athletics, and the school profits from selling merchandise bearing his likeness. Buzz's creator, however, may be having second thoughts about what he bestowed on his alma mater.

Richie Bland invented Buzz back in 1979, at the beginning of his junior year at Georgia Tech. He spent \$1,400 to make the costume and recalls debuting it at a pep rally before a football game against Tennessee. "I was just looking for something to do," says Bland. "I figured it would be a one-game stunt."

The athletic department was uninterested at first, but the public response encouraged it to adopt Buzz, and Bland



BOB MYERS

played the part through his senior year. When he left Atlanta for med school, he was allowed to pick his successor.

Now Bland practices medicine near Atlanta, and he wants to get involved with Georgia Tech and Buzz again—he'd like to help pick the person who wears the costume, serve as an advisor, maybe set up a scholarship fund. "None of it has worked out," says Bland, who feels he's been given the runaround. "I've never asked for anything from Tech for Buzz—even though I'm sure the trademark is worth seven figures—because I love Georgia Tech. But I have several lawyer friends who think I would have a pretty good case if I ever wanted to sue for rights to the trademark."

As for Georgia Tech, no one there seems able or willing to speak with any authority on the subject.

—Bill Chastain



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ONE ON ONE

XAVIER McDANIEL

"ON THE COURT...YOU HAVE TO BE NASTY, MEAN, ARROGANT, ANYTHING TO GET THE JOB DONE." /By Joel Sherman

Xavier McDaniel is mad. He has taken an elbow to his jaw while fighting through a Greg Kite screen in a frantic effort to keep up with his man, a young thoroughbred named Dennis Scott.

It's late in the first half in this New York Knicks-Orlando Magic duel, and McDaniel gets tagged with a foul on Scott, though he is an area code away from the action.

The ref gets the stare. Xavier McDaniel's double-whammy killer stare.

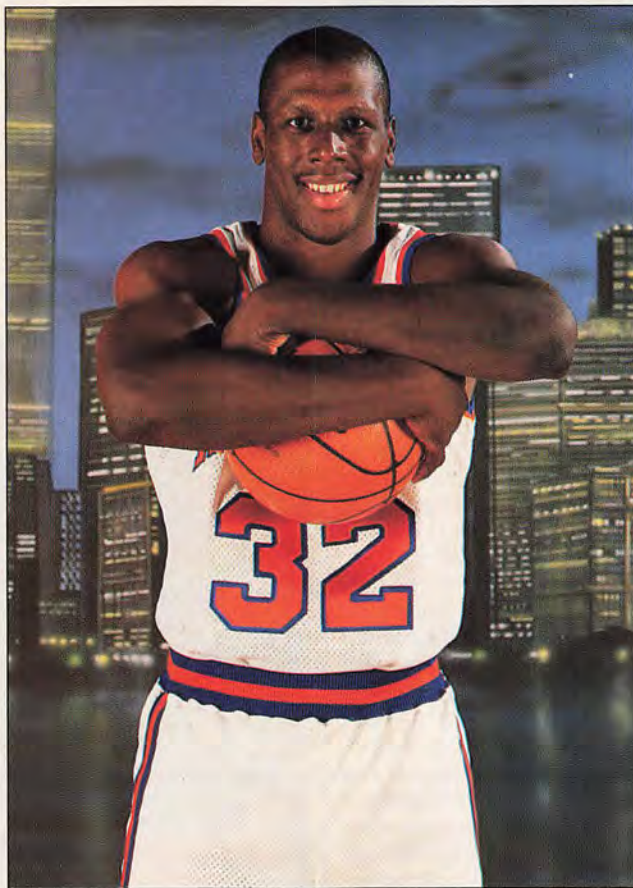
McDaniel is angry, and this is what happens when he's mad. He accepts a John Starks lob, and, springing off knees that are no longer supposed to be so elastic, he emphatically jams with 1.4 seconds left in the half. Orlando's Scott Skiles takes the inbounds and attempts a three-quarter-court shot. But the ball never leaves his hands. McDaniel is pushing it back into Skiles' face.

And then McDaniel gives Skiles the stare. The double-whammy killer stare.

It's enough to make Knicks fans X-cited about McDaniel's arrival in New York, and reporters queasy. That's because this book would be titled "Big, Bad and Bald." But mother was right: You should never judge a book by its cover. Turns out, this one is a surprise.

Sitting in the Madison Square Garden locker room after that game, ice on his wounded knees and suds in his cup, McDaniel is the model of approachability.

NATHANIEL S. BUTLER



The fierce stare is gone, and there is melancholy in his eyes. He's talking in piquant paragraphs about the plight of Magic Johnson, defying every bit of generational wisdom about sound bites.

He says that Dr. J, Larry Bird and Magic comprise his basketball pantheon. However, the only Dr. J in his life, it seems, is Dr. Jekyll, the guy with the long answers, as opposed to the elbows-throwing Mr. Hyde, who patrols the court with that menacing

scowl. The latter persona moved one NBA scout to say of McDaniel, "The man takes no bull."

"On the court, you're out there trying to accomplish something," McDaniel says. "It's your job. You have to be nasty, mean, arrogant, anything to get the job done. Off the court, you're a human being just like anyone else."

"People don't realize that athletes and actors have two lives. My mother once said she didn't like that guy from

'The Rifleman'—Chuck Connors—because he raped a black woman in 'Roots.' I said, 'Mama, it's TV. That ain't the way the man is in real life.' In basketball, some people have on-court problems and off-court problems. But me, I come to play, and then afterward it's fun and games."

McDaniel's no angel. It's just that he's not the figure of evil you'd expect from the reputation, the muscle and the bald head.

"People say I look scary," he says about his shaved pate. "Sometimes guys cut their hair because they are going bald, like Michael Jordan or Terry Porter. I cut mine because I look in the mirror and say it looks pretty nice."

McDaniel, who began shaving his hair in high school for big games, grew up poor in Columbia, South Carolina. His father worked jobs in a food-distributing warehouse and as a janitor at the University of South Carolina to stave off poverty.

"My mother always told me, 'If you go to jail, I'm not getting you out,' and my dad said, 'I don't have anything to get you out with,'" McDaniel says. "So I knew I wasn't going to jail, period. Athletics is a way out for some people, and I took advantage of it."

McDaniel wanted to go to the University of South Carolina but ended up at Wichita State because his grades were deficient. He earned high marks as a Shocker, following Oscar Robertson

ONE ON ONE

and Bird as the third Missouri Valley Conference player to register 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. As a senior, McDaniel became the first player to lead the NCAA Division I in scoring (27.2 points) and rebounding (14.8 boards) in the same season.

Seattle drafted McDaniel with the fourth pick in 1985. For the next 5½ seasons, he forged his seal as one of the NBA's roughest customers and finest players, specifically with his demonic offensive rebounding. In his first year, he received the most votes on the NBA All-Rookie team, which included future Knicks teammates Patrick Ewing and Charles Oakley, as well as Karl Malone and Joe Dumars.

In McDaniel's second season, the SuperSonics finished with the seventh-best record in the Western Conference but sprinted to the conference finals before losing to the eventual NBA champion Lakers. It appeared the young Sonics had arrived, a team headed by the high-scoring trio of McDaniel, Tom Chambers and Dale Ellis. It was really an end. The club did not get beyond the second round again.

"It seemed like every year we had five new players," McDaniel says, trying to explain the team's failure to develop. "We had a foundation, but we never built on it."

Chambers left for Phoenix as a free agent after the 1987-88 season, presaging the beginning of that end in McDaniel's mind. Then just before Thanksgiving 1990, McDaniel and Ellis fought outside the Sonics' administrative offices. The talk is McDaniel loathed Ellis' work ethic and the regular off-court disruptions he brought to the team. McDaniel, these days, says he hung with Ellis off the court "like a brother" and that the incident occurred because Ellis "was going through some

problems."

Two weeks after the fight with Ellis, McDaniel was sent to Phoenix for Eddie Johnson and two first-round draft picks. He was perceived as the final piece to the Suns'

"I grew up in the ghetto. It doesn't mean I always act like I'm from the ghetto."

playoff puzzle. Phoenix appeared set to advance beyond the conference finals, which it had lost the two previous years. It all worked during the season. McDaniel found his offensive role diminished to the fourth option, behind Chambers, Kevin Johnson and Jeff Hornacek. Yet he still averaged 15.8 points and a team-high 7.2 rebounds as the Suns went 47-20 following his arrival. But Phoenix was evicted from the first round of the playoffs by Utah. McDaniel averaged just 9.5 points and 3.8 rebounds while shooting 41.5 percent from the field against the Jazz. He received a great deal of the blame for the team's failure.

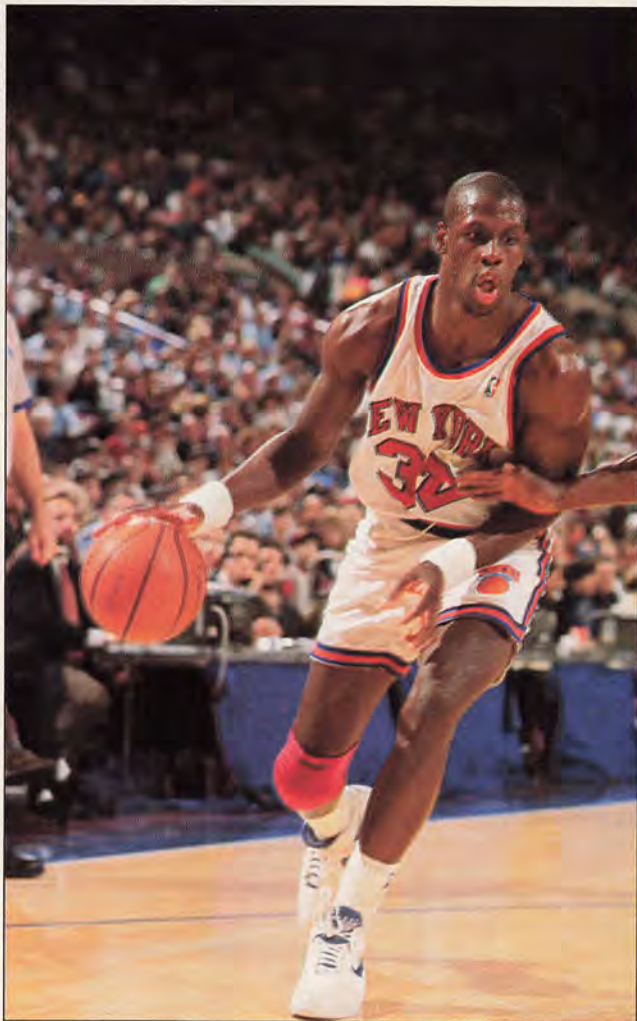
"When we lost, it was all of a sudden that me and Tom couldn't play together again," McDaniel says. "Well, before we lost, it was 'Oh, what a great combination.' Three months later, someone had to go. Guess who it was? I read that I brought two things to that team: attitude and knee problems. I don't think I brought attitude. I did what they wanted me to do. [Suns coach] Cotton Fitzsimmons told me he wanted me to play defense and rebound. They said they had scorers in Tom and Kevin. I know I did what they wanted me to do. If they wanted me to shoot,

they should have told me that. Hell, I can put it up enough. The day I was traded [to the Knicks], Cotton told me I did everything they wanted me to do. That made me feel better."

The Knicks and Suns negotiated four months before consummating a trade of McDaniel for Jerrod Mustaf, Trent Tucker and two second-round picks. The day before the deal, Knicks coach Pat Riley had said his club desperately needed a post-up small forward to make his system work. The next day, he received one. And the immediate order Riley gave was the complete opposite of the one McDaniel heard in Phoenix: Shoot, shoot, shoot.

"To be honest, it felt like starting over again," says McDaniel, a career 20-point scorer going into this season. "You know what they brought you here for, but still you try to fit in. Pat Riley told me to stop fitting in and just play basketball. I love it [New York]. My whole career I thought about playing here. This is the place to be. You go out on the street, and people know who you are, and they know basketball. If you stink, they'll tell you."

The Knicks had hungered for a legit scoring small forward since Bernard King wrecked his knee during the 1984-85 season. There were fears about McDaniel's knees, specifically the right one, which has had two



NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBA PHOTOS

Small Company's New Golf Ball Flies Too Far; Could Obsolete Many Golf Courses

Pro Hits 400-Yard Tee Shots During Test Round

Want To Shoot An Eagle or Two?

By Mike Henson

MERIDEN, CT — A small golf company in Connecticut has created a new, super ball that flies like a U-2, putts with the steady roll of a cue ball and bites the green on approach shots like a dropped cat. But don't look for it on weekend TV. Long-hitting pros could make a joke out of some of golf's finest courses with it. One pro who tested the ball drove it 400 yards, reaching the green on all but the longest par-fours. Scientific tests by an independent lab using a hitting machine prove the ball out-distances major brands dramatically.

The ball's extraordinary distance comes partly from a revolutionary new dimple design that keeps the ball aloft longer. But there's also a secret change in the core that makes it rise faster off the clubhead. Another change reduces air drag. The result is a ball that gains altitude quickly, then sails like a glider. None of the changes is noticeable in the ball itself.

Despite this extraordinary performance the company has a problem. A spokesman put it this way: "In golf you need endorsements and TV publicity. This is what gets you in the pro shops and stores where 95% of all golf products are sold. Unless the pros use your ball on TV, you're virtually locked out of these outlets.

TV advertising is too expensive to buy on your own, at least for us.

"Now, you've seen how far this ball can fly. Can you imagine a pro using it on TV and eagle-ing par-fours? It would turn the course into a par-three, and real men don't play par-three's. This new fly-power forces us to sell it without relying on pros or pro-shops. One way is to sell it direct from our plant. That way we can keep the name printed on the ball a secret that only a buyer would know. There's more to golf than tournaments, you know."

The company guarantees a golfer a prompt refund if the new ball doesn't cut five to ten strokes off his or her average score. Simply return the balls — new or used — to the address below. "No one else would dare do that," boasted the company's director.

If you would like an eagle or two, here's your best chance yet. Write your name and address and "Code Name S" (the ball's R&D name) on a piece of paper and send it along with a check (or your credit card number and expiration date) to National Golf Center (Dept S-173), 500 S. Broad St., Meriden, CT 06450. Or phone 203-238-2712, 8-8 Eastern time. No P.O. boxes, all shipments are UPS. One dozen "S" balls cost \$24.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping & handling), two to five dozen are only \$22.00 each, six dozen are only \$109.00. You save \$55.70 ordering six. Shipping is free on two or more dozen. Specify white or Hi-Vision yellow.

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ONE ON ONE

arthroscopic surgeries. He's lost some explosiveness to the offensive glass, and it is evident that quicker small forwards take advantage of McDaniel's slowed lateral movement. However, he has compensated with a better-than-expected long-range jumper and some savvy. Sure, he gets scored on, but for the first time since King's heyday, the Knicks have a small forward who makes the opposition pay consistently on the other end. And with all the questions about the knees, McDaniel missed just 18 games in his first six seasons, one of those coming from a suspension incurred via a December 1989 heavyweight enforcer bout at Madison Square Garden against Charles Oakley.

That was the most vivid image in most New York basketball fans' minds when the X-Man came to town. But he seemed to win over his teammates quickly. Riley called McDaniel "affable"; Kiki Vandeweghe, who lost his starting job to McDaniel, labeled him a "good guy"; and Oakley kids with the guy who has the Garden locker next to

his. Still, the reputation exists.

"I'm aware of the image that I'm portrayed: rough guy, ghetto-type person," McDaniel says. "They may be right. I grew up in the ghetto. It doesn't mean I always act like I'm from the ghetto. I chose to be more aggressive [on the court] than some and I get more [negative notice] than just about anyone. Besides Charles Barkley, I'm the No. 1 guy the refs look at in games. Things happen, and the first person that gets looked at is me. It isn't always me. That's just the image the media has portrayed. I get into a fight, I get suspended. Other guys get into fights and they just get fined. It kind of makes me mad to see what a Dennis Rodman does with his dirty play. I thought he was trying to hurt Scottie Pippen in the playoffs last year. He should have been suspended. If it was me, I probably would have been."

Suddenly, there's a hint of the double-whammy killer stare. Then he smiles. X-pressive as ever. ★

Joel Sherman is a sportswriter for the *New York Post*.

This Month's Dodge SPORT Word Puzzle Solved.

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12-13 correct: Sports genius
9-11 correct: Good Fan
6-8 correct: Working too hard
3-5 correct: To the showers
0-2 correct: Try knitting
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if you send us the correct answer to the SPORT Stumper given below. Send only your name, address and age to SPORT Quiz, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069. Limit one per person, and all entries must be postmarked by February 14, 1992.

1 Michael Jordan (pictured) is one of two NBA players to win two slam-dunk competitions. Name the other.

2 Who was the NBA All-Star Game MVP last year?

3 Who was the last player to foul out of an NBA All-Star game?
A. Hakeem Olajuwon
B. Rick Barry
C. Wilt Chamberlain
D. Karl Malone

4 Which country won the most gold medals during the 1988 Summer Olympics?
A. Soviet Union
B. USA
C. South Korea
D. West Germany

5 Who was the last foreign light heavyweight fighter to win an



ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/ABA PHOTOS

Olympic gold medal.

6 True or False: Mary Decker-Slaney has never won an Olympic medal.

7 Only one New York Islander has the distinction of winning the Hart Trophy. Who is he?

8 Which New York Yankee led the team in RBI last season?
A. Don Mattingly
B. Mel Hall
C. Matt Nokes
D. Steve Sax

9 Which team gave up the most home runs in the National League last year?
A. Chicago
B. San Francisco
C. Houston
D. San Diego

10 From 1971 to 1974, Phil Esposito won consecutive scoring titles. Who ended the streak?

11 Who was the youngest boxer to win a heavyweight title?

A. Floyd Patterson
B. Rocky Marciano
C. Muhammad Ali
D. Mike Tyson

12 Name the first bowler to earn \$100,000 in a season.

13 Which player has the most free-throw attempts in an NBA All-Star Game?
A. Wilt Chamberlain
B. Bill Russell
C. Elgin Baylor
D. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
—William Ladson

STUMPER

Who was the first American tennis player to earn \$100,000 in one year?

JANUARY 1992 STUMPER ANSWER

Bill France Sr. ["Name the founder of the NASCAR Circuit."]

FEBRUARY 1992 STUMPER ANSWER

Robert De Niro ["Name the only actor to win an Oscar for playing a real-life athlete."]

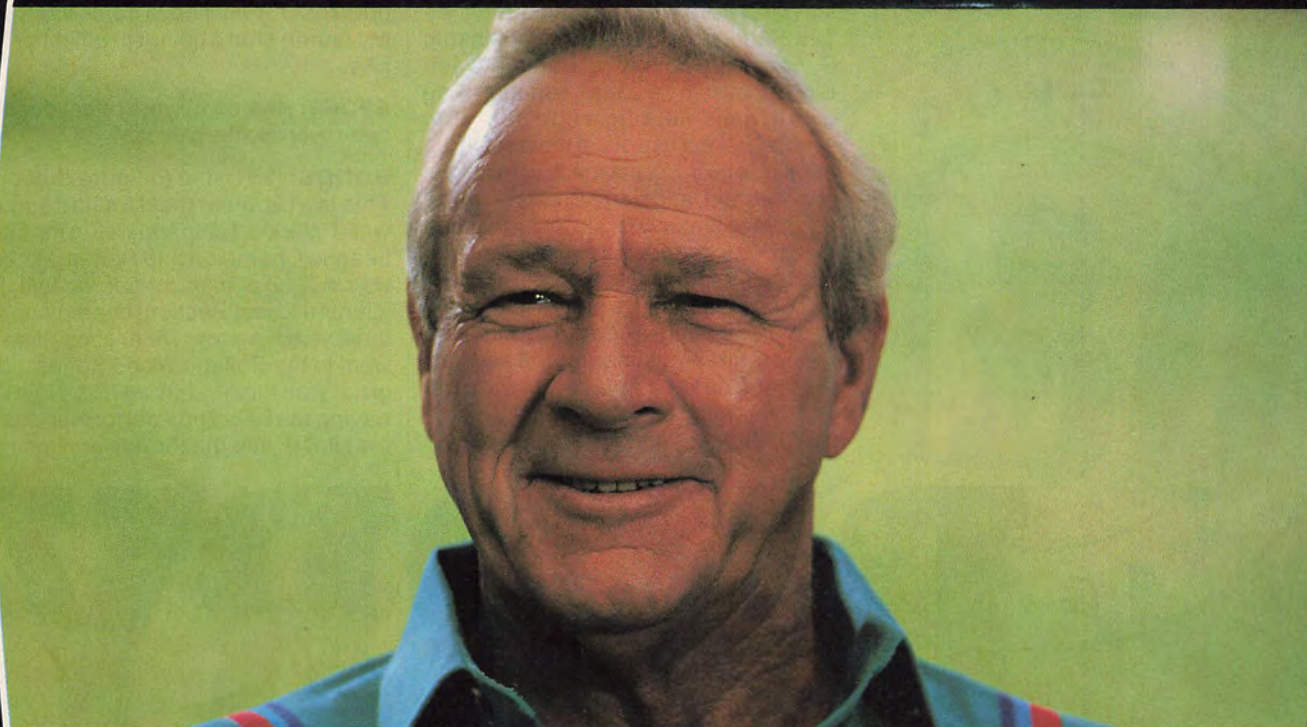
THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Dominique Wilkins 2. 12. Earl Anthony 13. A Orr 11. D (he won the (80) 9. B (143) 10. Bobby Brian Trotter (1979) 8. B (Yugoslavia) 6. True 7. (55) 5. Anton Josipovic fouled out in 1987) 4. A Charles Barkley 3. A (he 1. Dominique Wilkins 2.



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There's something about Barry Bonds that ticks off a lot of people. Maybe it's his brashness. He'll tell anyone within earshot that he's the best left fielder in baseball. Maybe it's his insensitivity. There was the time during the 1990 National League Championship Series when he ripped teammate Jeff King for missing a game, although King was in pain, nursing a bad back that eventually kept him out of most of the '91 regular season. Or maybe there's no real good reason, and Barry Bonds is simply a victim of circumstance, a young man caught up in the howling winds of change that are threatening to blow down baseball's economic house of straw.

But one thing is certain: Bonds, the Pirates' often-misunderstood star, is a fabulous baseball player. Maybe the best. He was the NL's MVP in 1990, hitting 33 homers and stealing 52 bases.

and two strikes a lot of the time. I programmed myself into thinking that the Braves were going to pitch me like the Reds in '90. The next thing I knew, I had to deprogram myself, which was hard to do. What I should have done was keep my mouth shut and not predict the future.

SPORT: How come your talent doesn't carry over into the playoffs?

BONDS: I'm trying to figure that out. This is a problem that I've had since I was a little kid. I didn't do well in the Little League Championship Series. When I was in [Serra] high school, we lost the [Central Coast Section] championship three years in a row. [At Arizona State], I went to the College World Series. I did great statistically, but we lost. Now I'm having these crappy performances in the NLCS, and the Pirates are losing. I

BARRY BONDS

"I'M
THE
BEST

NEWSPAPER
SELLER IN
BASEBALL."
INTERVIEW
BY WILLIAM
LADSON

He posted comparable stats in '91 and nearly won the award again.

His talent does have an expensive price tag though. And unless the Pirates dig deep into their wallet—real deep—Bonds will have his future great years someplace else. His best friend and former teammate, Bobby Bonilla, signed with the New York Mets for \$29 million. Bonds won't settle for less. And he isn't afraid to explain why.

SPORT: One week after the Pirates won the division title last season, you said, "I'm going to be patient and take more walks in the playoffs." You batted .148 against the Braves in the National League Championship Series. What happened?

BONDS: Unlike the Reds in 1990, the Braves were throwing strikes. If you look at the tapes, I found myself with no balls

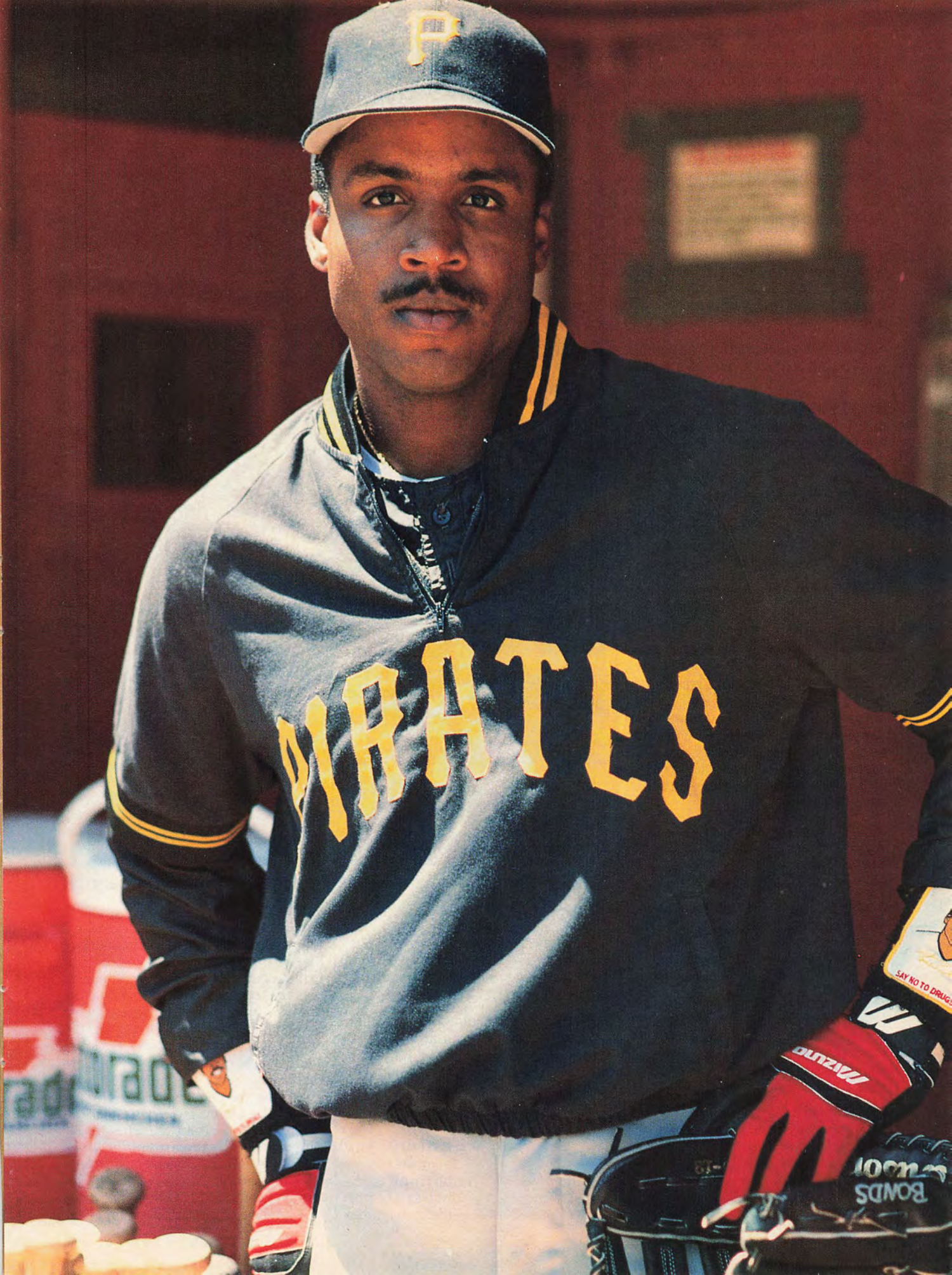
don't know what to do.

SPORT: Are you nervous when you reach playoff competition?

BONDS: It's funny. The playoffs are so different than the regular season. In '91, I tried too hard, knowing that the team was going to split up after the season. We all felt that way. In this profession, you are lied to so many times. Why couldn't the front office lie to us this time and tell us we would be together for years to come? If they said that, I think we would have been more relaxed in the playoffs.

SPORT: What were the feelings in the clubhouse after the Pirates lost to the Braves, knowing that your close friend, Bobby Bonilla, was leaving?

BONDS: There were a lot of tears. But it wasn't so much that Bobby Bonilla was



leaving. [Jim] Leyland and [former Pirates GM] Syd Thrift put this franchise back on the map. Now we're wondering why did the front office rebuild this team, only to break it up? Why?

MITCHELL B. REBEL

SPORT: Now that Bonilla has signed with the Mets, is it guaranteed that you'll be leaving the Pirates after the '92 season?

BONDS: As of right now, the answer is yes. I hate to predict the future. Pittsburgh has been good to me. No matter what happens, my heart will always go to the Pirates because they gave me my big break. But reality sets in. I have to get security for my family.

SPORT: While you wait for free agency, can you put up the big numbers without Bonilla?

BONDS: I don't know. You are as good as the people around you. Barry Bonds and Bobby Bonilla worked so hard to be the best four and five hitters. I don't understand why the Pirates want to give that up. You're talking about two guys who drove in 100 runs, scored 90 runs for two consecutive seasons. What should that tell you? These two guys complement each other.

SPORT: You talk about Bonilla and yourself as if you're still a tandem.

BONDS: Bobby Bonilla and Barry Bonds will always be a tandem. I don't care if they put us in two freakin' different countries. We'll always be a part of each other's life. We're like two loving brothers that no franchise will separate. One day we will be together again. We could be together in New York after the '92 season. People don't understand our relationship. We don't want to be apart. We're like Siamese twins.

SPORT: There's talk of the Pirates trading you before the season is over because they can't afford to keep you. What do you think about that?

BONDS: I don't mind being traded where I want to be. Bobby told me that there's no place like home. He's right. To play in California would be the best for me. But I also could live in New York.

SPORT: Do you accept the theory that because Pittsburgh is a smaller city, the organization can't afford to pay the money that you are worth?

BONDS: No. I think the Pirates have the finances to pay the players. In past situations, the Pirates have been hurt by free agency. In

"No matter what happens, my heart will always go to the Pirates because they gave me my big break."



Aggressiveness on the bases has made Bonds a perennial 30-30 player.

1985, they signed all these free agents, and they were still in last place. I don't think the Pirates want to go through that again.

SPORT: Let's talk about the shouting match you had with Leyland last spring. Did that stem from losing your arbitration case?

BONDS: The argument had nothing to do with salary arbitration. I had a

friend who came to Florida to take pictures of me. I paid for him to be there. A camera guy from the media came up to my face, and I asked him to move. He didn't want to move. I physically removed him from my sight. One of the public relations guys [Jim Lachimia] came over to me and said, "If that cameraman can't stay, your guy can't stay." That upset me because he can't tell me who can be around me. Then one of the coaches [spring-training instructor Bill Virdon] thought the argument was a money issue. Then Leyland got involved once he saw me yelling at [Virdon]. Although Leyland didn't know the whole story, he was right by protecting [Vir-



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don]. Any manager would do that.

SPORT: By Leyland showing you who was boss, a lot of people think that incident sparked the Pirates to their second consecutive division title. Do you buy that?

BONDS: Definitely not. One thing we are able to do is separate our differences when we hit the field. I respect Leyland as a manager and a person. I love the man. He's the greatest manager I've ever played for. No reporter is going to mess up our relationship.

SPORT: You are very outspoken, but that's perceived as arrogance. How do feel about that?

BONDS: The funny thing about that is the media don't know me. I don't want them to know my personal life. But they still write whatever they want to write. I'm the best newspaper seller in baseball. If I don't give them what they want, they say I have an attitude or I'm a problem person. I'm not a problem person. Do you know how many people want to read dirt about me? A lot. Obviously, I'm an important person. The media blow

"If the media is paying me to talk, I'd do it all day."

sleep over it. It's not affecting my performance on the field.

SPORT: Do you have any interest in smoothing your stormy relationship with the media?

BONDS: I'm not the type of player who can deal with distractions. The Pirates are paying me to get the job done. So when I come to work, I dedicate myself 100 percent to playing baseball. My job is not to talk to the media. If the media is paying me to talk, I'd do it all day. They don't realize that if I don't get any hits in a game, I have to deal with the fact that my manager would sit there and say, "Hey, Barry, were you prepared today?" I'm not going to waste what God has given me by talking to the media.

SPORT: Your critics also say that your moodiness with the media stems from the way your father, Bobby Bonds, was treated during his major-league career. True?

what I say out of proportion and make me look like an ass. But that's OK. If they want to play the game, I can play too. I'm not losing any



Bonds is trying to figure out why his regular-season greatness doesn't carry over into the postseason.



The relationship between Leyland and Bonds remains strong despite the shouting match they had last spring.

BONDS: Yes. My dad was a great baseball player. He hit 30-30 five times. For some reason, everybody thought he could do better. I don't want the media to treat me the way they did my father.

SPORT: What do baseball people say to you about your father?

BONDS: That's funny. Every time I go on the field, owners, general managers and umpires tell me, "Oh, man, your father is a wonderful guy. What's he doing now? Tell him I said hi." If my father is such a wonderful guy, how come he

doesn't have a job? I don't understand it.

SPORT: Why can't your father get a job?

"I respect [Jim] Leyland as a manager and a person.... No reporter is going to mess up our relationship."

BONDS: My father has had his problems over the course of his playing career, which the media have magnified. The drunken-driving charge of 1973 is still over his head. I don't think that's fair. My father got a reputation of being an alcoholic because of that incident. I can tell you that he was never an alcoholic.

SPORT: Let's play word association. Tell us what comes to mind when we say Pittsburgh.

BONDS: I've got to admit that the city is nice. It's a safe place to live. You don't have to worry about crime. It's a great place to raise your children.

SPORT: How about the Pittsburgh fans?

BONDS: I was disappointed that they booed the club during the seventh game of the NLCS. We got further than a lot of other teams. We're out there doing our best, and to boo us is not cool. Do they think I got this far to lose? Give me a break. We are only human.

SPORT: Free agency.

BONDS: It's a beautiful thing. I can't wait to be free and sign for what I'm really worth.

SPORT: San Diego.

BONDS: Home, sweet, home.

SPORT: Would you like to play for the Padres?

BONDS: I would love to play there. I want to play for any California team except the Giants because it's cold and they need a new stadium.

um. But I'd love to be with Bobby too. It's a tough decision. One minute, I want to live in one house. The next minute, I want to finish out my career with the person I love the most—Bobby.

SPORT: If you had to do anything over again in your career, what would that be?

BONDS: I would stop being honest. That's my biggest problem. People seem to get angry when you tell the truth. Maybe I should have told people what they wanted to hear. If I did that, I wouldn't be in such turmoil. ★



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HIM THE RECOGNITION
HE DESERVES

Sitting behind a huge oak desk, wearing a gray T-shirt, baseball cap and three-day growth is a man few know beyond the streets of New York.

He's one of the most unpretentious superstars in all of sports. Some will tell you that he's the most underrated player in baseball. The New York Mets will say that he's the most respected player in the clubhouse. The Hall of Fame people will go on record to say that they're keeping an eye on him. The man who has been shrouded in obscurity, caring less if the spotlight shines his way, is Howard Michael Johnson. Go ahead and feel free to call him HoJo as his teammates do.

"Playing in the media capital of the world

like New York, you'd think a guy putting up numbers like he has would be a bigger name," says Keith Miller, HoJo's former teammate who's now with Kansas City. "It's crazy. He's one of the greatest players in the game, and it's like people still don't know who he is. There's no one in the game more underrated than HoJo.

"But when you think about it, the craziest part is HoJo could care less. He says he doesn't need the publicity. He doesn't need the attention. He just wants to do his job. How can you not love a guy like that?"

Just how much is Howard Johnson adored by the Mets? Although the Mets still have Johnson under contract through 1992 with an option in 1993, they began talking



BY BOB NIGHTENGALE



about a long-term extension after last season.

There's a different twist to these negotiations, however. Johnson and his agent didn't initiate the talks. The Mets came to him.

"That should tell you what we think of him," says Al Harazin, Mets general manager of baseball operations.

It's time for Johnson's critics, especially Sparky Anderson, to think of him as one of baseball's best. Look at what Johnson has accomplished in his eight full seasons: he has hit 30 or more home runs and stolen at least 30 bases in three different seasons, a feat accomplished only by Bobby Bonds. Johnson has averaged 31 homers, 95 RBI and 32 stolen bases since becoming an everyday player in 1987. His 38 homers and 117 RBI in '91 gave him two legs of the National League Triple Crown.

Johnson also is a guy who's never been asked to endorse any products; not even the hotel/restaurant that bears his name. He has trouble enough walking into a stadium without having to show identification.

"Look at me," Johnson says. "I'm short, I'm white, and I have no unusual features to be recognized. Most of all, though, I think people still remember me when I first came up, and [they] have a

hard time believing [my production] is for real. It's like their first impression won't go away. I'm sure they also remember the stigma attached to me."

That stigma was firmly attached to Johnson eight years ago during his first full season with the Detroit Tigers. It was a time that should be forever cherished, but it continues to torment him. It's almost as if he doesn't want to forget the pain inflicted upon him.

Sparky Anderson told the baseball world in 1984 that Johnson couldn't play under pressure. He accused him of being a choker. Never mind that the Tigers jumped to a 35-5 start that season and won the division without a pennant race. Instead of platooning at third base as he had done all season, Johnson sat during the American League Championship Series. He never appeared in one game. To add insult to insult, Anderson replaced Johnson with a third-string catcher named Marty Castillo. You figure it out.

In the World Series, only at then-pitching coach Roger Craig's urging did he receive a pinch-hitting appearance. Mention that '84 season to Johnson today, and the sinews in his neck begin to stiffen. His jaw tightens.

"I don't know anyone who doesn't feel pressure when they first come up," Johnson says. "I always thought that would work itself out the more I played.

"I feel there's a part of me that wants to prove to [Anderson] that I'm a good player. And every time I had a good season, it was like my way of getting back at him."

Anderson's low regard for Johnson was the sole reason the Mets were able to acquire him during the winter of 1984 for pitcher Walt Terrell, a trade that forever will live in Tigers infamy.

"If it wasn't for Sparky, we never would have been able to get Howard," says Joe McIlvaine, former Mets vice-president of baseball operations and engineer of the trade. "[Former Tigers general manager] Bill Lajoie really liked him and didn't want to trade him. But it was Sparky who wanted him out. Sparky just refused to play him. All Howard needed was confidence."

Johnson's confidence still wavered even after he arrived in New York. During his first two years, Johnson found Ray Knight ahead of him at third base. It wasn't until '87 and Knight's departure as a free agent that Johnson got his chance.

Despite becoming only the second full-time infielder to reach the 30-30 mark, there were other challenges for Johnson after the '87 season. Pure-hitting Dave Magadan's .318 average of that year promised future competition for his third-base job. Magadan was later moved to first base. Then there was Gregg Jefferies, whom the Mets already

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ROB BROWN

had inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame before his first game. The emergence of Jefferies was supposed to make Johnson expendable. In fact, Johnson was on the verge of being traded to the Seattle Mariners in 1989 for pitcher Mark Langston before then-Mariners owner George Argyros nixed the deal. It was the worst trade the Mets never made.

"It's been one long struggle for credibility," Johnson says. "I've been benched, traded and overlooked. I've always had to prove something."

Even while working on career highs in homers and RBI last year, not to mention a third 30-30 season, Johnson still struggled for credibility. His production was supposed to succumb to Christianity. Johnson admits that he saw the stares. He heard the whispers. In fact, teammates immediately became scared once Johnson became born-again last year. They knew what had happened to third baseman Gary Gaetti and his numbers. They had seen what happened to others. They were worried about what would become of Johnson, as if it were a dreaded disease.

"A lot of us wondered what would happen to us in the clubhouse," says Kevin Elster.

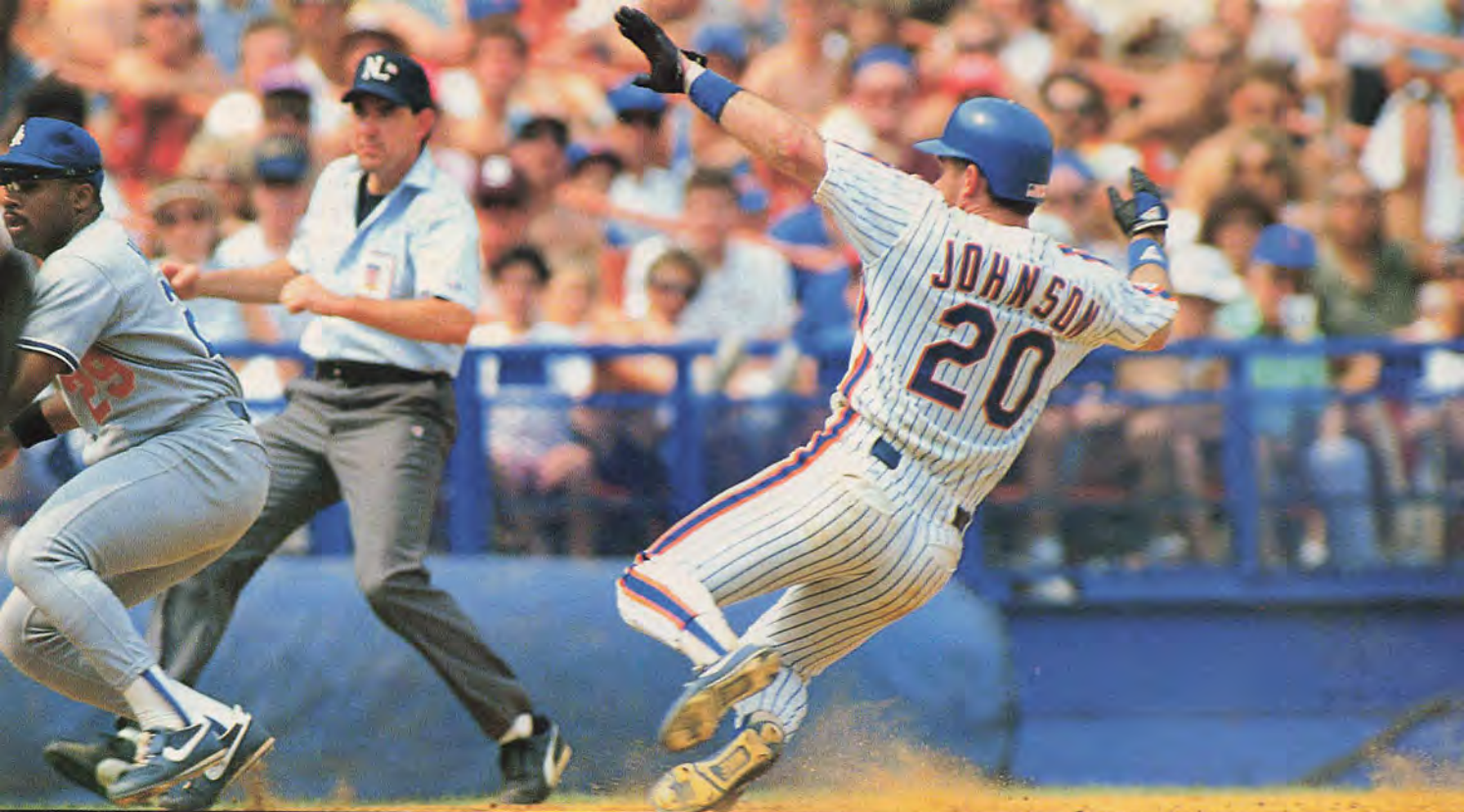
It wasn't as if Johnson had huge

"It's been one long struggle for credibility. I've been benched, traded and overlooked. I've always had to prove something."



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"I feel there's a part of me that wants to prove to [Sparky Anderson] that I'm a good player. And every time I had a good season, it was like my way of getting back at him."

problems in his life, necessitating a religious overhaul. Oh, maybe he frequented bars a little too often. Maybe he cursed a little too often. Maybe he preferred *Penthouse* to *Time*. Johnson just needed peace in his life.

"I was playing the game well," he says, "but I was not enjoying life like I wanted to. It was like I was floating through each season. [Christianity] gave me a new direction, a new attitude. I prayed hard for peace in my life, and I found it.

"I knew guys would look at me funny. Everyone has stereotypes of Christian athletes. But I wanted to prove them wrong. I wanted to show people I can be just as aggressive, if not more, as a Christian. I still knock second basemen into left field when I have the chance."

Certainly, Johnson's religious convictions never interfered with his passion to win or his willingness to say what he believes.

Case in point: When former Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Gary Carter loudly thanked Keith Miller for making a ninth-inning error last season that enabled the Dodgers to rally for a victory, Johnson chastised Carter for his un-Christian-like comments. Johnson's lecture prompted Carter to climb on the Mets' bus before it left Dodger Stadium and apologize to Miller and the rest of his former teammates.

When Frank Viola was quoted as saying that players were cowering from the

responsibility of replacing Darryl Strawberry, Johnson said that Viola was out of line for creating an inaccurate image of the team.

"Frank's not a believer," he says. "But he's a good friend of mine, and I thought some of his opinions should have been kept to himself. I know our team had a bad year, but what I tried to do was play above the circumstances and not let that affect me."

Last season, Johnson found himself trying to escape Strawberry's shadow. Everything he did was compared to Strawberry; his batting, his baserunning, his clubhouse presence.

That won't happen in '92, now that the Amazin' Mets have signed Eddie Murray and Bobby Bonilla. You can bet Johnson is glad that the pressure is off him to produce Strawberry-like numbers.

"It goes to show you that the front office is committed to bringing a championship back to New York," Johnson says. "I don't see any problems with Murray and Bonilla. Those players will do anything to win."

The acquisition of Bonilla does cause a problem for Johnson going into this season: What position will he play? The infield should be out; he's made 83 errors over the last three seasons. There's talk of Johnson playing right field. But

that's Bonilla's position. It's not as if Johnson can't play out there. He played the final 30 games of the 1991 season in right. The experiment was a success. He made only two errors and batted .284 with nine homers, 28 RBI and 10 steals.

No matter what happens, Johnson will do whatever new manager Jeff Torborg tells him. Johnson, who has made three position changes since 1989, indeed is a throwback. Ask him to play a different position, and he'll ask to borrow a glove. Suggest that he should renegotiate his multiyear contract, and he'll look you in the eye and say that just isn't right. Sure, he knows his \$4.3 million contract over the next two years is far below what other 30-30 guys [such as Strawberry and Jose Canseco] make these days. But Johnson isn't about to complain. That's not his style. He's a plain-wrap superstar. What you see is what you get.

"You can tell the guys who feel the world owes them a living," Johnson says. "I never want to be like that. I just want to be known as a guy who plays hard. When they remember me, they'll say, 'Yeah, that Howard Johnson sure played hard, didn't he? He gave 100 percent every time.' To me, that would be the biggest compliment. That's the only recognition I'd like."★

Bob Nightengale covers the San Diego Padres for the *Los Angeles Times*.

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It all starts in a vacant lot two streets and a stoplight down. The neighborhood boys, three on a side, are playing a not-so-friendly game of over-the-line. Naturally, there's that goofy kid who can never find a mitt. Poor lad's always bumming a glove from someone on the opposite side. Wrong glove on the right hand, or right glove on the wrong hand. It's always the same, being the misfit.

In school, his graffiti-covered desk and scissors spell big trouble. At home, it's the twist can opener and Instamatic. In an earlier generation, he might have been scolded for using the "wrong" hand and then persuaded to switch at a ruler's length. Such is the life of a left-hander in a cruel right-handed world.

But baseball is a different world, and left-handers are held in higher, atypical regard. Call 'em southpaws, portsiders, wrong-way drivers. Call 'em weird. But don't omit invaluable. They're always wanted and always get called.

"Everyone, forever, has been searching for that left-hander, especially that lefty reliever," says Gene Mauch, who went through a few haystacks during his quarter century of managing. "They just have too much of a natural advantage in this game."

Lefties certainly don't guarantee success, just as a lack of them doesn't ensure failure. We saw the Braves blossom with 53 victories out of a lefty trio (Steve Avery, Tom Glavine and Charlie Leibrandt). We also watched the Angels inhale cellar fumes despite 55 wins from their three southpaws (Jim Abbott, Chuck Finley, Mark Langston). And wasn't that an all-righty rotation which pitched Minnesota to World Series glory?

Eight of baseball's top 16 winningest pitchers last season (based on won-loss percentage) were lefties, and that *doesn't even include* Abbott (18 wins), Jimmy Key (16), Terry Mulholland (16), Leibrandt (15), Tom Browning (14), Frank Viola (13) and Randy Johnson (13 wins and 228 strikeouts). Whether this is a trend or not, baseball gospel waves off the exceptions as flukes, holding lefties

as integral to contention as plutonium is to nuclear weapons. The difference is, plutonium is easier to mine.

In the grand scheme of things, baseball's reverence of lefties is quite odd. Lions coach Wayne Fontes doesn't care whether Barry Sanders leads with his left foot. The Bulls' repeat hopes don't ride on whether Michael Jordan lays 'em in southpaw. In any rational business, the CEO doesn't note the orientation of his board of directors. And culture generally frowns on left-handers as social misfits.

But baseball is The Great Emancipator of southpaws, holding them in disproportionate esteem. All because of the field's physical layout... and genetics.

Left-handers are spotted a tremendous edge by this

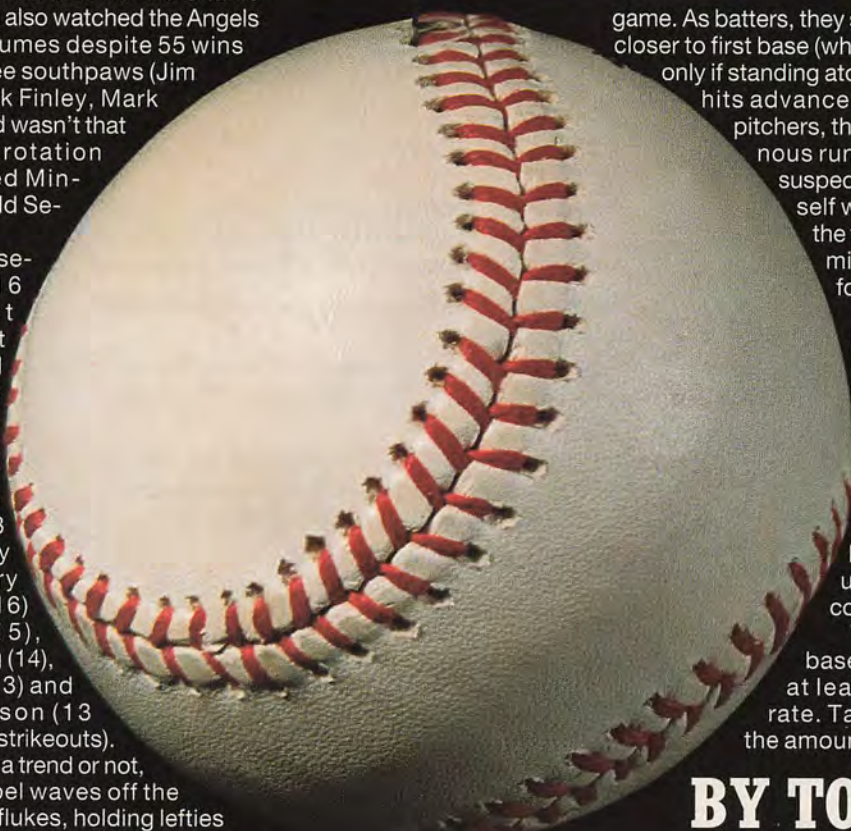
BASEBALL'S AGE-OLD OBSESSION WITH LEFT- HANDED PITCHERS CONTINUES TODAY AS STRONG AS EVER

HEY, LEFTY

game. As batters, they start out as much as four feet closer to first base (which, actually, is 90 feet away only if standing atop the plate), and their pulled hits advance runners an extra base. As pitchers, they look directly at that larcenous runner on first. It's enough to suspect that Abner Doubleday himself was a southpaw and laid out the first diamond with revenge in mind on a right-handed world for a lifetime of scorn.

Left-handers' importance to defensive strategy includes forcing switch-hitters to the right side. Switch-hitters (almost exclusively natural right-handers) are made, but left-handed pitchers are born—at a rate of about 12 per hundred in the general population. So the frantic and competitive search goes on.

The lefty population on baseball's mounds has always at least doubled the universal rate. Taking census by decades, the amount of lefties went from a low



BY TOM SINGER



of 25 percent in 1901 to a peak of 30 percent in 1990, suggesting that clubs are more desperate than ever for southpaws.

But the need has always existed.

"Clark Griffith, one of the wisest men in baseball, once told me, 'Give me all left-handed pitchers and all right-handed hitters, and I'll beat you to death,'" says Mauch, who played the left-right angles to the max. "So this search has gone on since the first big-league manager."

Well, at least since Babe Ruth. He revolutionized the game by going deeper, and more often, than any man had gone before. And he was left-handed, as have been many of the top sluggers—Ott, Williams, Yaz, McCovey,

Candelaria, qualified as exhibit A in the lefty crunch as a 38-year-old entering his 18th big-league season and pitching with his eighth club, the Los Angeles Dodgers. "I'm still pitching because I can still get out the left-hander—the Clarks and McGriffs—late in a game. If I was right-handed, no, I probably wouldn't have a job."

Another example is Rick Honeycutt of the Athletics. At 37, he's still a valued set-up man who can take care of the opposition's tough left-handed hitters. But would he be given the ball (43 times in '91) if he were a right-hander? No way.

Rosters at the start of '91 teemed with southpaws older than 30 and under .500: Keith Comstock, who at 35

waited a long time for him, and he never did develop."

"If you're a good pitcher and left-handed, you stay around longer," Mauch says. "Matters less what you throw. There's a helluva lot more junkballers from the left side. There have been many successful lefties who couldn't blacken your eye. If Charlie Leibrandt threw with the other arm, he'd be nonexistent."

Time out. So what is so mystical about left-handed pitchers anyway? Lefty hitters come at a similar minority rate—28 percent on 1991 rosters. The right-handed supply is just as balanced, so shouldn't demand for righty stoppers be just as hot and their level of tolerance just as high?



Chuck Finley and Jim Abbott each won 18 games in '91, but the Angels still finished last.

Stargell, Reggie—and hitters—Cobb, Shoeless Joe, Speaker, Musial, Carew, Boggs and Gwynn—who defined ensuing eras.

Easy to understand, the wish to counter such sock. Righties abound on both sides of the duel. They can fend for themselves. But developing lefties...now that's hard work. The process takes a lot of time and patience, and it's a jittery ride on a bumpy road.

For the organization, that is. For the lefty, it often seems to be a free ticket. He is pampered, stroked, given a margin of error the width of the Grand Canyon. Being left-handed in this business is as good as being the boss's son in any other.

"I'm a perfect example," says John

owned 10 career wins. Kevin Hickey, another 35-year-old with a lifetime sub-.500 record. Or 31-year-old Chuck Cary, averaging two wins for his six big-league seasons. Being left-handed means never having to say good-bye: See Bob McClure (38), Dan Schatzeder (36), Frank Tanana (37). And if you have a trace of a successful past, regardless of how past, well...here's \$10 million, Bud Black (83-82), and another \$6.4 mil for you, Matt Young (51-78).

The situation is so dire, the lefty well so dry, the time frame for their development seems to be "forever."

"I've noticed a lot of left-handers being held onto for a long time as teams wait and wait," says Candelaria. "A perfect example is Rod Scurry. The Pirates



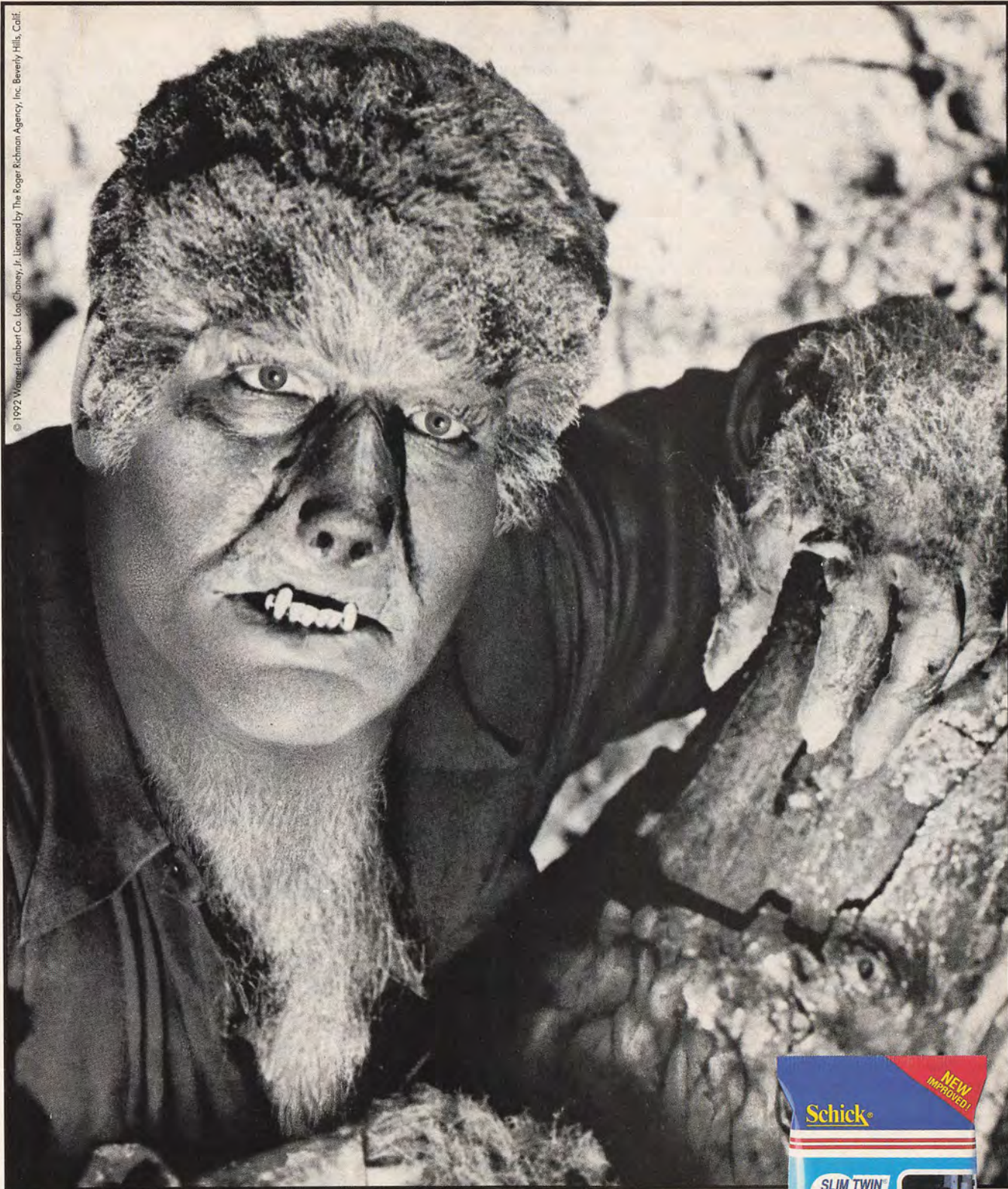
Tom Glavine won 20 and took home the Cy Young Award.

No, for several reasons, all inextricably woven into the traditionalist fabric of the game.

"Lefties couldn't throw a ball straight if the future of civilization was riding on it."

Even a raw one with only a fastball has more than that. His ball moves in mysterious ways, tailing and sinking. Righties struggle to develop a pitch they can move away from an opposite-side hitter, and the lefty falls out of the crib with it.

This is evident at the lowest levels of organized ball. "A left-hander's ball just moves more. Most of them don't even know how or why," says El Dorado (California) High School coach Steve Gullotti, whose team began the 1991 season ranked No. 1 nationally. "It just hap-



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pens. Their ball's darting all over the place."

"Running the ball in on lefties and away from righties—that once was known as 'the basic left-hander movement.' I don't think there's such a thing anymore, but the lefty has to work at making his ball go another way," says Marcel Lachemann, the Angels' respected pitching coach.

"Lefties are feared. Everything alien is."

No matter how experienced a batter, he arrives in the big leagues having faced few lefties. They are rare on any other level, and are rarest in the minors, where those with potential spend little time.

"You certainly don't get to see them at our level," says Gullotti, who has held

a degree of truth in left-handed hitters having more problems with lefties than vice versa. A dominant lefty will be more dominant. He'll have more of a stifling effect, especially with the unorthodox move a lot of them have."

Regard Candelaria, one of the best hit men in a group that features McClure, Rick Honeycutt, Mike Jeffcoat and Scott Radinsky, among many others.

"Ramon Hernandez once gave me some insight into what left-handers fear," Candelaria says, recalling a southpaw staffmate on the mid '70s Pirates. "He told me to drop down and see how they react. Right away, I saw them backing out. Been doing it ever since."

field fence."

"Lefties are simply a different breed."

Well, yeah, Dizzy Dean was a right-hander. But most of the game's legendary flakes have been southpaws. The typical lefty's repertoire includes fastball, curve, goofiness, change-up.

No wonder they require special handling.

"I've always suspected it must be a little strange to be left-handed, to be not quite like everyone else," Mauch says. "You discover it as a youngster and you grow up with that difference. In some countries, the Bahamas may be one, if a kid does some things left-handed, he's actually in big trouble. So your personality has to become different."

AL KOOSTRA



Like anything alien, lefties such as Pittsburgh's John Smiley are feared.

his current coaching post for 11 years. "In all that time, I've had three left-handers. Then when you do face them, the ball comes from such an unusual angle."

Add the reputed Left-hander's Disease—an inability to control where that hard-thrown ball is headed—and there's real cause for dread.

"Lefties are lethal to same-side hitters, and only crippling to right-handed ones."

The opposite doesn't hold, since righties lack the novelty and innate stuff. But the tough southpaw can muffle the righty bat, while being virtually untouchable to the lefty. No wonder the one-batter specialist is his exclusive domain.

"A lefty can make a living pitching to one batter," Lachemann says. "There's

FOCUS ON SPORTS



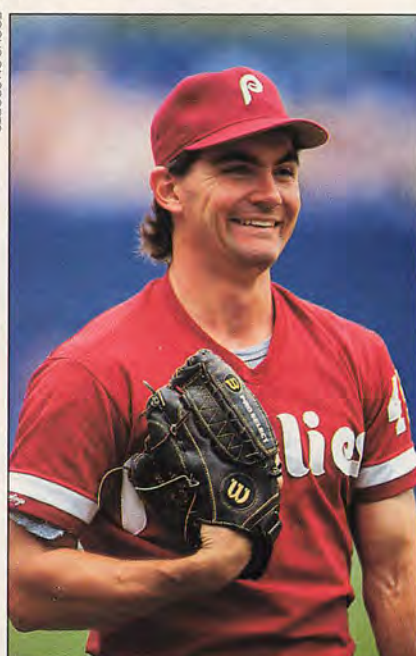
Injuries haven't diminished Jimmy Key's invaluable contributions to Toronto.

"Lefties are the best antidote against the running game."

Unless they get lazy and squander away their natural edge anyway. As has Matt Young, who has developed this thing about throwing to first base to hold on runners.

"Sometimes deterrence is enough. Geoff Zahn went through a whole year without anyone even attempting to steal off him," says Mauch, who occasionally couldn't resist making pitching moves based not on who was at bat but who was on base—and at least once was shown the folly of this approach. "I brought in Andy Hassler to pitch to Frank White because Willie Wilson was on first with two out, and I knew he'd be hesitant to run. Only trouble was, White hit the ball over the left-

MICHAEL PONZINI



Many lefties take time to develop. The Phillies' Terry Mulholland is an example.

"Lefties, perhaps not coincidentally, take longer to develop, but the wait may be worth it."

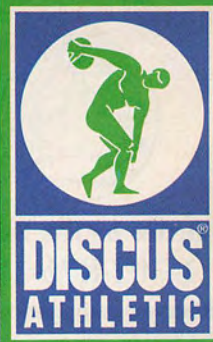
We can probably credit Warren Spahn with reviving this one, and Sandy Koufax with perpetuating it. The winningest left-hander of all time, Spahn won the first of 363 at 25. Koufax's contribution was his taking his sweet time: He began his seventh season with a 36-40 record.

"That adage existed long before Spahn, long as I can remember," Mauch says. "Lefties come late. It's a given."

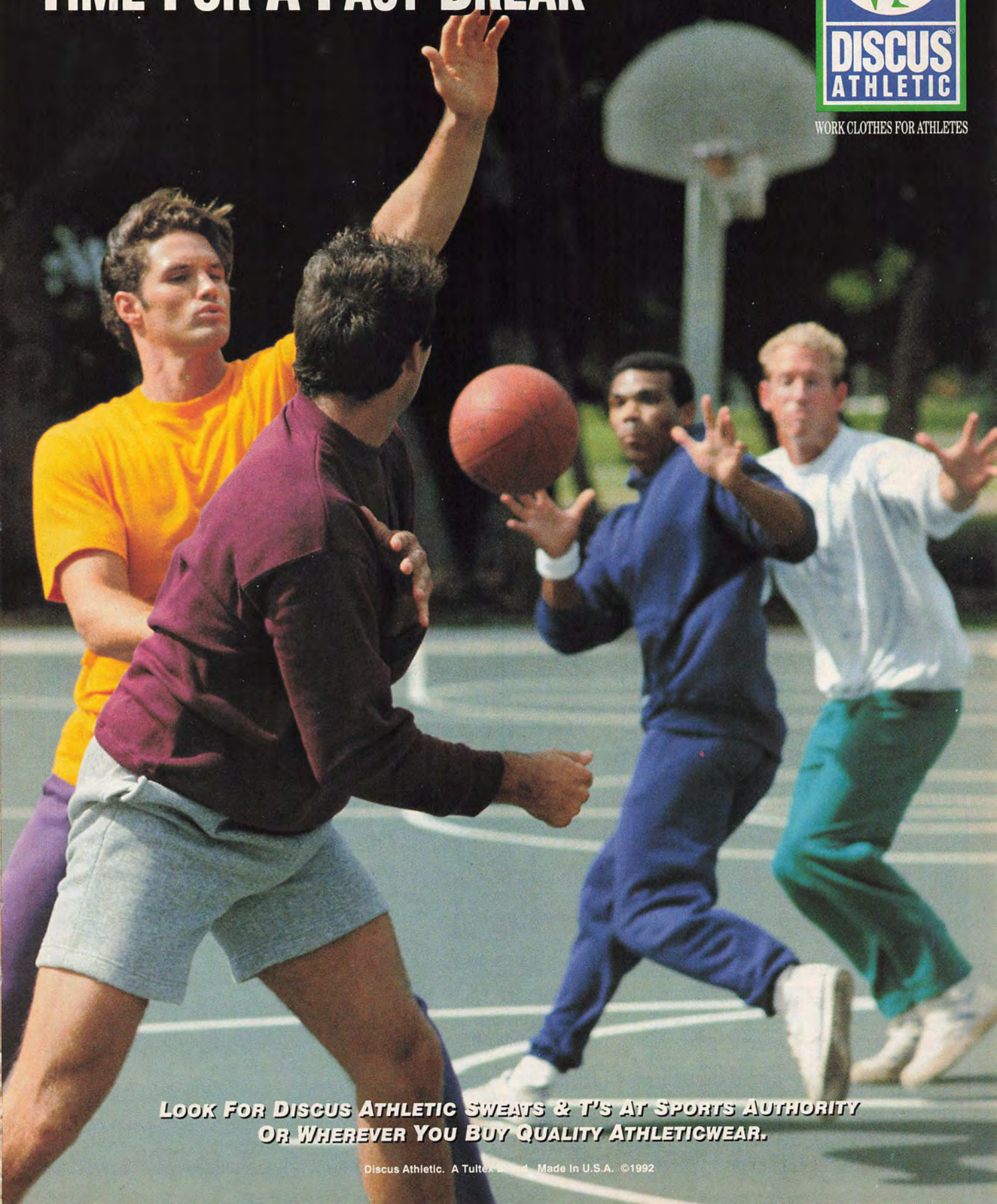
Baseball's continued obsession with these social anomalies is also a given. ★

Tom Singer is a free-lance sportswriter based in Southern California.

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THE STATE OF THE GAME

COMMISSIONERS, PAST AND PRESENT, DISCUSS THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT BASEBALL'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

In an increasingly complicated world, baseball finds continuing success tougher to come by. The questions faced today and tomorrow can not be easily answered by yesterday's experiences. Will attendance continue to climb? Will television ratings continue to sag? Will player salaries and franchise values continue to soar? Will there ever be peace between labor and management?



To consider these and other issues critical to the game, we turn to a trio of qualified observers—Bowie Kuhn, Peter Ueberroth and Fay Vincent. Kuhn and Ueberroth, as former commissioners, set the precedents and established the framework with which Vincent, as current commissioner, runs the game. Their thoughts on the health and future of baseball are as different as their personalities. But while

BY KEN GURNICK

settling little, their opinions at least outline the debate.

Ueberroth, for example, served only one tumultuous five-year term. A travel-industry magnate whose financial skills turned the 1984 Olympics into a gold mine, he was hired specifically to restore economic viability to the baseball business, which he did. He increased licensing revenues almost 15-fold and negotiated two national-television contracts that totaled \$1.5 billion. Attendance records were broken four consecutive years. Twenty-one clubs were losing money when he arrived, none when he left. Franchise values appreciated while player salaries continued on a slow rise.

But his heavy-handed methods did not sit well with owners who resent being told what to do. He left office to pursue other business opportunities—he's

They would have given that money to the players, whether through an arbitrator's ruling or on their own. They would have spent more than 100 percent of revenues because they always do."

Neither Kuhn nor Vincent scolds owners as bluntly as Ueberroth, and Vincent notes that "romantics" forget there were baseball labor problems in the last century too. Even so, he suggests that things could be better than they are.

"We must eliminate the confrontations every four years," he says. "I'm an optimist. I believe there will be a better, stable arrangement between labor and management—maybe not in my lifetime though."

Vincent is hopeful the economic joint study committee—consisting of management, players and outsiders, and charged with finding common ground—

the smaller franchises can compete in the present situation."

That brings Kuhn to the complicated and crucial small market/big market debate, an issue so central to the game's future that owners are polarized because of it. Many of the same owners seeking player acceptance of revenue sharing are not willing to share their local broadcasting revenues with other owners, an inconsistency the union won't accept.

Kuhn correctly points out that the New York Yankees' earnings from local broadcasting (roughly \$45 million) are greater than some clubs' total revenues. National broadcasting is shared equally, but Kuhn objects to total revenue sharing because it requires strong franchises to support weak ones.

"The move to revenue sharing gives



"Owners have gone on a spending binge that is, frankly, beyond comprehension.... They would have spent more than 100 percent of revenues [on players] because they always do."—Peter Ueberroth

a major investor in Hawaiian Air and other companies—and left behind charges of collusion that resulted in a \$280 million arbitrator's ruling against the owners. Since his departure, player salaries have gone berserk, increasing by 103 percent from an average of \$438,000 in 1988 to \$891,000 in 1991.

"Owners have gone on a spending binge that is, frankly, beyond comprehension," says Ueberroth. "As for collusion, I didn't see it. But looking back now, whether there was or wasn't collusion, it wouldn't have mattered. Owners would have spent the money anyway.

will lead to that. Kuhn doubts it will.

"I have never seen one work well, and I wouldn't expect this one to," says Kuhn, commissioner from 1969 to 1984, a period that witnessed the advent of free agency and the worst strike ever, in 1981. If the joint study does work, he says, "it's only because of the quality of people involved. It's a long shot, but I wouldn't give up on it."

Kuhn expects baseball to institute some type of salary cap similar to basketball's. "The Players Association won't be enthusiastic," he says. "But owners will be driven this way. I don't see how

less incentive for imaginative marketing," he says. "Baseball has 81 home games to sell. You want the local owner to maximize his business opportunities instead of waiting for the Yankees to prop him up. You don't want to remove his incentive."

As for the television gravy train, pessimists predict it is running out of steam and point to flat ratings. The commissioners, however, are unanimous in arguing otherwise.

"There will still be a lot of television and a lot of money," says Vincent. "The networks are obviously diminished in



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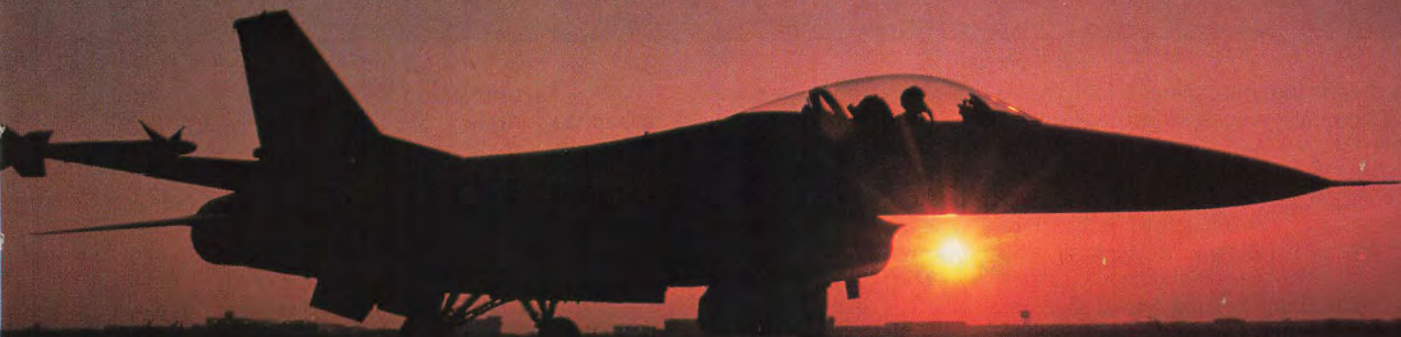
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power with a reduced share of the audience. People are still watching; they're just not watching the networks as much. The mix has changed. Local television is strong, and cable is coming on."

Ueberroth offers a more novel reason for continued television revenues: He expects inflation before long, caused by governmental attempts to spur the economy by printing more money.

For his part, Kuhn implies that patience is necessary. He says it's premature to evaluate a television package's success or failure after only two years. "It's not unusual for a new carrier like CBS or ESPN to struggle a little," he says. "It happened when ABC took over, but when push came to shove for the next package, ABC was there."

Unlike some industry observers who see pay-per-view as a panacea, Kuhn

specials to resolving disputes over expansion fees.

The commissioner is baseball's chief executive officer, and that makes Vincent something of a natural; he held that position at Columbia Pictures for a decade. He came to baseball as deputy to good friend and commissioner Bart Giamatti and then assumed the commissioner's post after Giamatti's death on September 1, 1989. Vincent's term extends through the 1993 season, which will be a crossroads year for the game of baseball.

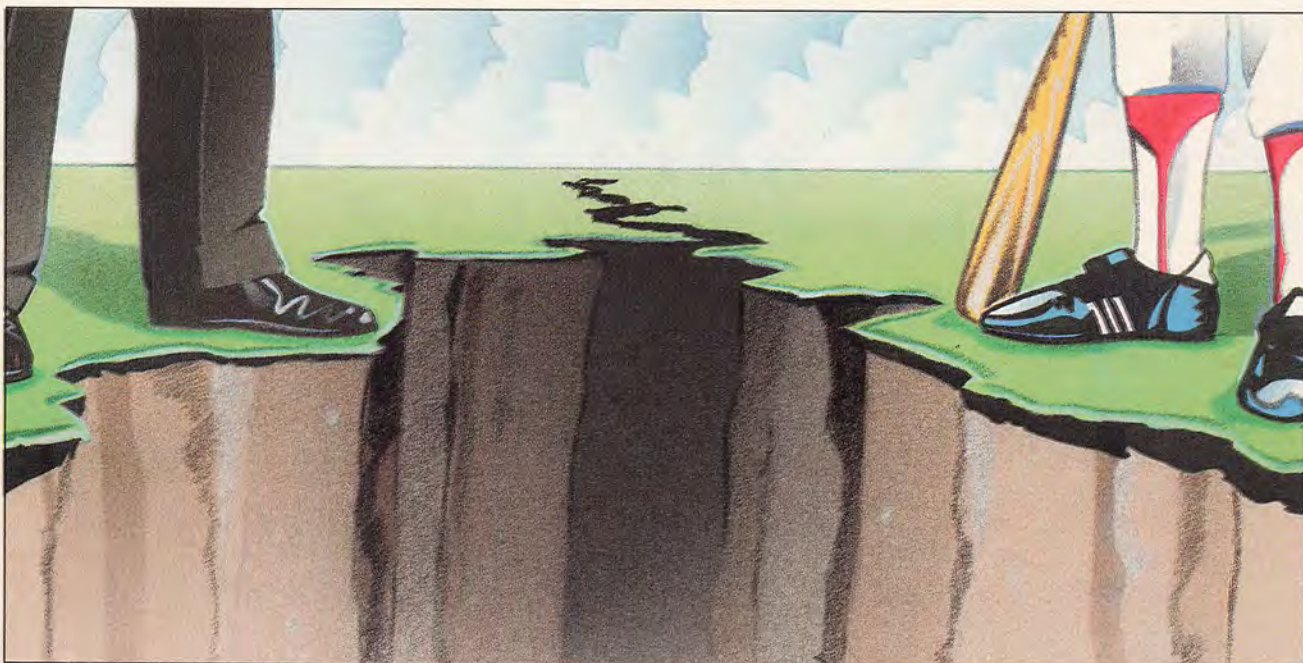
The collective bargaining agreement with the Players Association and the \$1.5 billion television package also expire after that season.

Negotiating with the union and the television networks will be complex, and possibly acrimonious, and Vincent's re-

"I suspect the National League West will be realigned," he says. "A lot depends on the change in the playoff system, the introduction of a wild-card format, interleague play."

Kuhn, who saw six teams added to the major leagues during his tenure, agrees with Vincent that further expansion is a dead issue for the immediate future. "I expect baseball will sit tight," he says. "It's more complicated than just cutting up the pie into smaller pieces. It has to do with rivalries, which are more important to baseball than other sports. The effect on attendance."

Ueberroth advocates more sweeping changes than either Vincent or Kuhn, including more expansion. "They should go to 30 teams," he says. "Three divisions of five teams in each league, with the three division winners and the sec-



"I'm an optimist. I believe there will be a better, stable arrangement between labor and management—maybe not in my lifetime though."—Fay Vincent

contends that it's unlikely except as an experiment because widespread implementation would create "political and public relations problems."

Problems are what the commissioner's job is all about. Originally, the position was created in the wake of the 1919 Black Sox scandal. Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was elected to restore the game's credibility. As the game evolved, the commissioner's powers were broadened. The position now includes responsibilities as far ranging as disciplining players and offi-

cials to resolving disputes over expansion fees.

He alienated owners in both leagues by ordering the National League to share with American League owners a portion of the \$190 million franchise fees collected from expansion entries in Denver and Miami.

The bitter squabbling leading to the decision is but one reason none of the commissioners expects further expansion in the near future. Vincent says it could take another 10 years; he thinks some form of realignment in baseball's divisions and playoff structure is more likely.

ond-place team with the best record making the playoffs. They should reduce the regular season from 162 to 154 games. It would give one more series of playoffs, and more teams would reach the postseason."

A strong proponent of the current expansion, he maintains that the two clubs debuting in 1993 will allow young players the chance to play and accelerate their development. "I believe the quality of play will improve through expansion," says Ueberroth. "Managers today are apprehensive about letting young players play. There's impatience. There's a

lack of stability in managers and general managers caused by owners. In no other industry in the country would you have a 50-percent turnover in one year, which is what happened to baseball managers."

Ueberroth appears to lay the blame for the situation on what he considers to be a major problem in baseball: owners who won't run their teams as a business.

"For the most part, it continues to be a mostly vanity investment for the very rich," he says. "Only with the entrance of public companies will they see the light of day with their spending. Teams double their payroll and finish last, which proves that money doesn't necessarily mean wins."

The commissioners all seem to support the trend in ownerships moving

Kuhn, who along with Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley has made baseball's international growth a passionate hobby.

"There is professional baseball now in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Australia. Baseball is growing in China and the Philippines. If I was the major leagues, I would try to shape this. Eventually, there could be a true World Series."

Since being toppled by an owner revolt, Kuhn was involved in a controversial law partnership and now lives near Jacksonville, where he runs a consulting business specializing in sports and financial affairs.

Vincent has his hands full with baseball, which he hopes will dedicate its efforts in coming years to making the game more customer-friendly. "We need to focus on the comfort of the

salaries, eventually, you will go back to the fan for more money, and at some point, you price that fan right out of the market."

Ueberroth warns of a disturbing cycle. Through player salaries, expenses continue to rise. If television revenues don't keep pace, the only other logical source is the ticket-buying public.

So the future likely holds higher ticket prices; a wild-card playoff format and limited interleague play to appease the networks; realignment; and critical negotiations with the Players Association. For all of the off-the-field evolution of the baseball business, though, some things you can count on. It's still 60 feet, 6 inches from the mound to the plate, still 90 feet between the bases.

Vincent is satisfied that the game



"I think you could see a Pacific Rim League.... There is professional baseball now in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Australia.... Eventually, there could be a true World Series."—Bowie Kuhn

toward corporations because of the high cost of franchises, closing in on \$100 million. Vincent says he foresees more community ownerships such as those in Pittsburgh and Montreal, while Kuhn cited corporations such as Anheuser-Busch for stabilizing franchises.

While Vincent sees no expansion for another decade, Kuhn figures that same time frame could apply to a different expansion into an area with which he is very familiar—international baseball.

"I think you could see a Pacific Rim League in the next 10 to 15 years," says

fans," he says. "I don't understand, for example, why we don't have seats with cushions, other than indoor stadiums. We should show more replays on the big screens at the stadium. We not only have to attract the fans, we have to do a better job entertaining them."

Ueberroth basically agrees that there needs to be more emphasis on the importance of the fan. "The game's greatest threat is from ticket prices," he says. "Because of the amount of games, baseball needs the repeater fan, but when you consistently spend all of your revenues on

will continue to prosper for those most basic of reasons. "If any of us came back to the world 50 or 100 years from now, we would recognize the game they were playing, just as people who were here 50 or 100 years ago would recognize the game today," he says. "The rules essentially are the same. The fans appreciate that. Baseball has been very wise not to tinker with the game."★

Ken Gurnick, who previously covered baseball for *The National*, is now a free-lance writer who lives in Los Angeles.

TAKING STOCK

REDSKINS COACH JOE GIBBS CARRIES HIS MISSION TO NASCAR

"I'll be as excited as I've ever been in my life in sports." That's what Joe Gibbs has to say about the debut of his racing team at NASCAR's first and biggest race of the year. It not only heralds the career that will replace football when he retires as head coach of the Washington Redskins. It also represents a new ministry.

The story of how Joe Gibbs Racing has come to be starting the Daytona 500 this February 16 is rife with the expression "committed Christian." The Redskins' 11-year coach says much about his beliefs in the explanation of his stock-car racing team. Football as well. They aren't merely organizations to win games or races. These are different avenues in what amounts to the Joe Gibbs outreach mission.

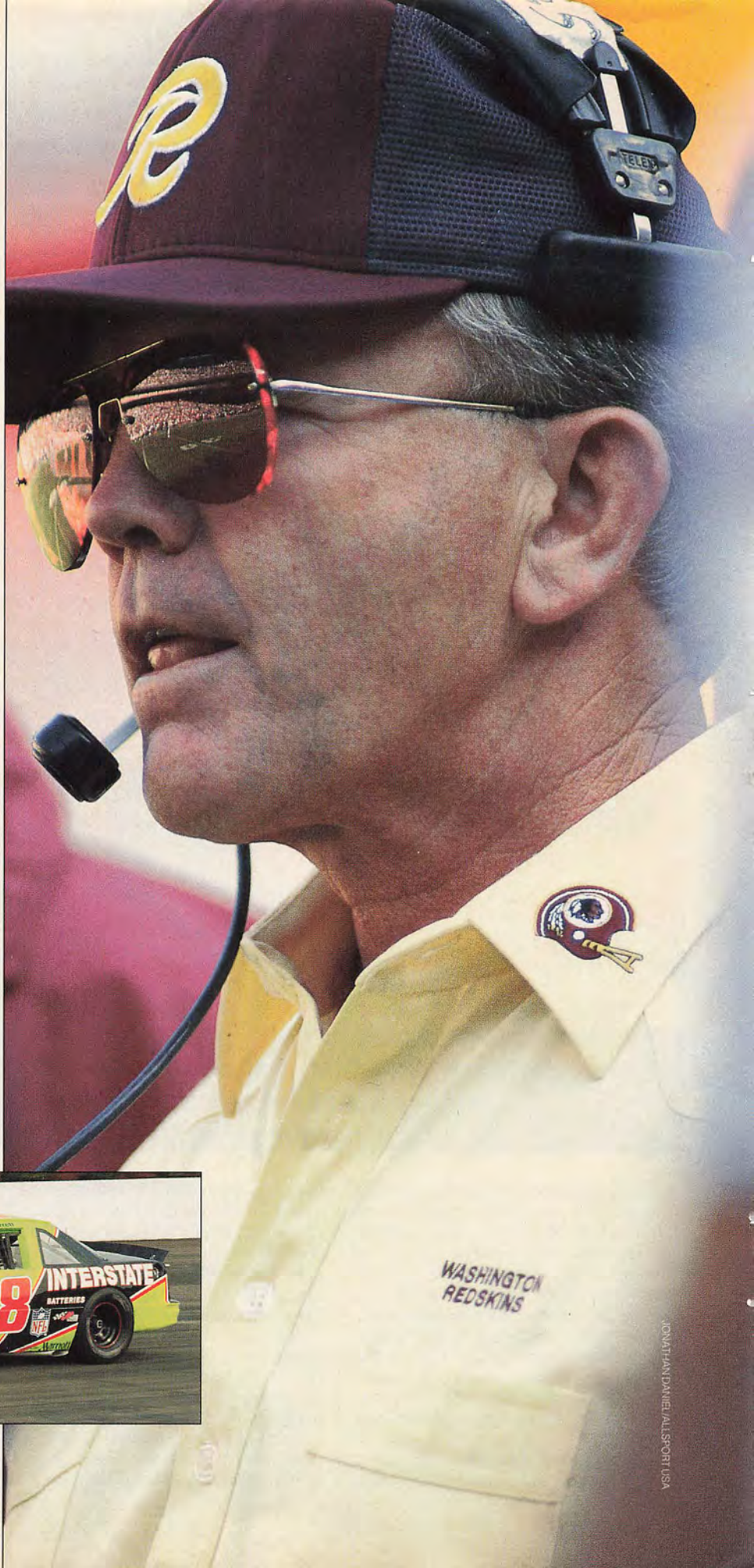
"To be a witness for Christ," he says to a question about his motivation. "There's a platform for Christianity in football, and, hopefully, there's one in racing too."



ERIN MASCHKE/PHOTOGRAPHY

BY TERRY MULGANNON

52 SPORT/MARCH 1992



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA

His definition for success in auto racing even dovetails with his belief in Christ, encompassing victory and defeat and doing the right thing along the way. He doesn't talk about winning numbers or percentages—he talks in terms of quality.

"You want people to respect you and your team," he says. "To have pride in what you do."

Of course, if he's not competitive, he won't gain that respect. His definition covers everything, really, that a football coach, race-team owner—or serious Christian—could want.

In a more worldly sense, there's no reason his car crew can't settle for the old fashioned kind of success—winning races. He has an outstanding team, the best of everything, top people, top cars. But most of all, it has a hungry owner.

Joe Gibbs and auto racing go back a long way, to California and the mid-'60s, when he used to build and drive dragsters in Long Beach. "I grew up loving auto racing," he says. "I thought I would go into it." Football forced a choice, and he quit racing when he left his coaching job at San Diego State for a position at Florida State in 1967.

Ever since, he says, "I felt deprived; I'd always wanted to race, but it passed me by."

It figures that his Christianity would play a role in the genesis of this new career journey. A religious sensibility has come to pervade the Redskins since Joe Gibbs became head coach, and it was that same religious involvement that made his race team possible.

"Once you make a commitment to Christ," he says, "every decision you make is led by the Lord." He also had the guidance of Max Helton, a NASCAR chaplain who helped Gibbs on his way through this world and more heavenly territories.

"I worked closely with Max," says Gibbs. "We prayed, and doors opened. We prayed for a sponsor and got a good one." That would be the Interstate Batteries Company, a large corporation owned by a family of some more committed Christians. Same thing with Christian publisher Don Meredith, the team's vice president and the man responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations.

Jimmy Johnson, manager of Hendrick Motorsports, advised Gibbs throughout the team-building process, and his company builds the engines that will power the cars. He may be the only man in the world Gibbs calls "my coach."

While Johnson coaches Gibbs in the details of overseeing a racing campaign, Gibbs also has a hands-on coach who runs the team. That's crew chief Jimmy Makar, perhaps the best chassis man in NASCAR. He helped take Rusty Wallace to a Winston Cup Series championship in 1989, and they were the nucleus of the NASCAR team formed by Roger Penske last year. They scored two victories by the time Makar left in late August, a surprising success for a first-year effort. But the Penske organization was a little too

Jarrett wasn't eager to join Gibbs at first; he was driving for the Wood brothers, one of NASCAR's oldest teams. He had yet to win his first Winston Cup race, but he was with a solid program.

"I wasn't really interested," says Jarrett. "[Gibbs] said he wanted a first-class team, but everyone says that." Gibbs won him over eventually.

One of the most important issues to Jarrett was that team members be well taken care of, and Gibbs convinced him that everyone on the team would be looked after. That meant good insurance, incentive bonuses and time off for families.

Jarrett compares himself to a quarterback—"I'm the guy who makes things happen and keeps the team pumped up"—and his concern with the

crew is explained in similar terms. "They're like my offensive linemen," he says. "They're going to make me what I am."

But if Gibbs is serious about a first-class team, why did he hire Jarrett, who didn't win a race until *after* he got the job? "He paid his dues," says Gibbs. "I thought he was on the verge of being a winner."

There's one more thing, says Gibbs. "He's the type of person who will fit in with me."

He's talking about character rather than just Christianity. Makar, for instance,

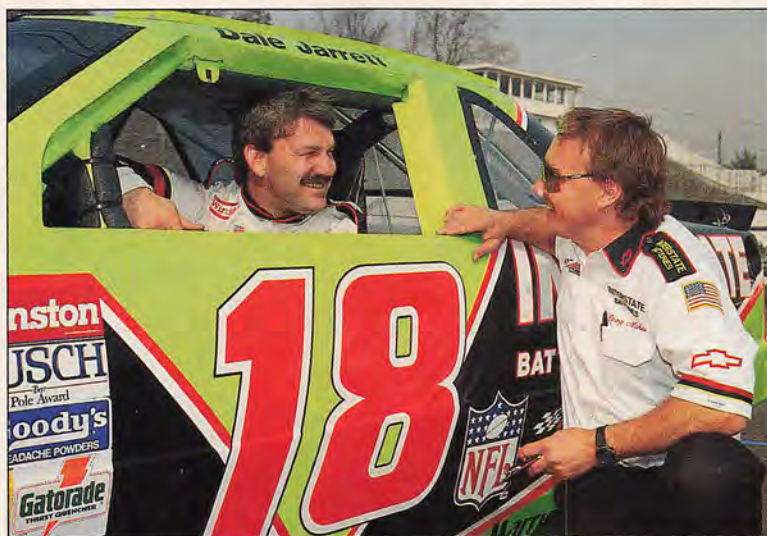
wouldn't classify himself as a born-again Christian, as are Gibbs, Jarrett and Meredith.

"Joe is a religious fellow," says Makar, "but that is not an issue. He wants people around him who know right from wrong. He told me the most important thing was for people to look at the team and say, 'That's a good bunch of guys doing things right.'"

Regardless of the fine sentiments, Gibbs also wants to be competitive, and the team principals agree that a top-10 finish by the end of the season is a minimum goal. A couple of wins during the year are realistic, and Makar and Jarrett contend that a win at Daytona isn't impossible—underdogs won it in '90 and '91.

Meanwhile, will Gibbs be torn between racing and football? Nope.

"I already have a job," he says, and that's football, full time. ★



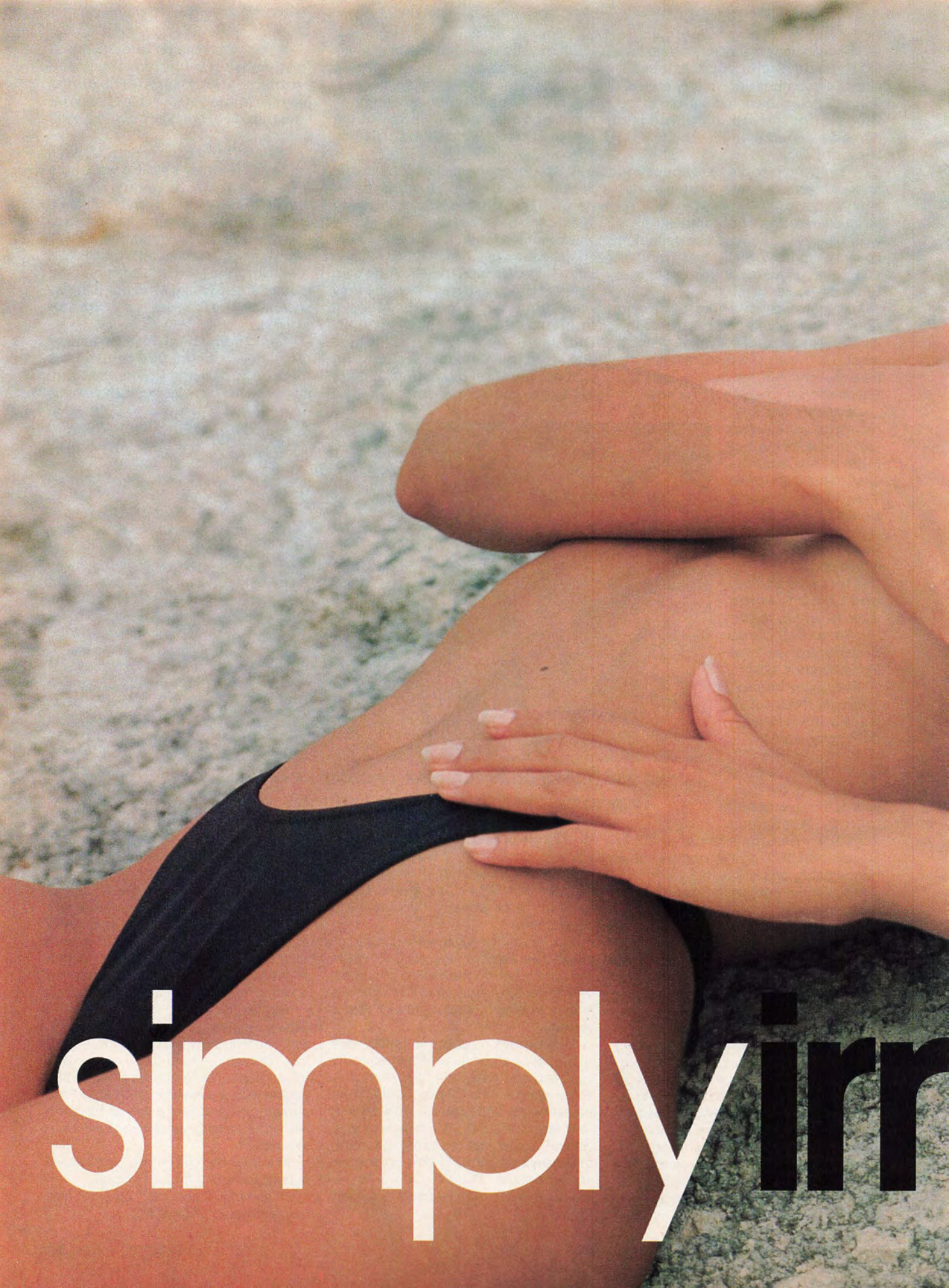
Jarrett and Makar communicate uncommonly well. They're not "like" family; they are family.

ERIN MASCHKE PHOTOGRAPHY

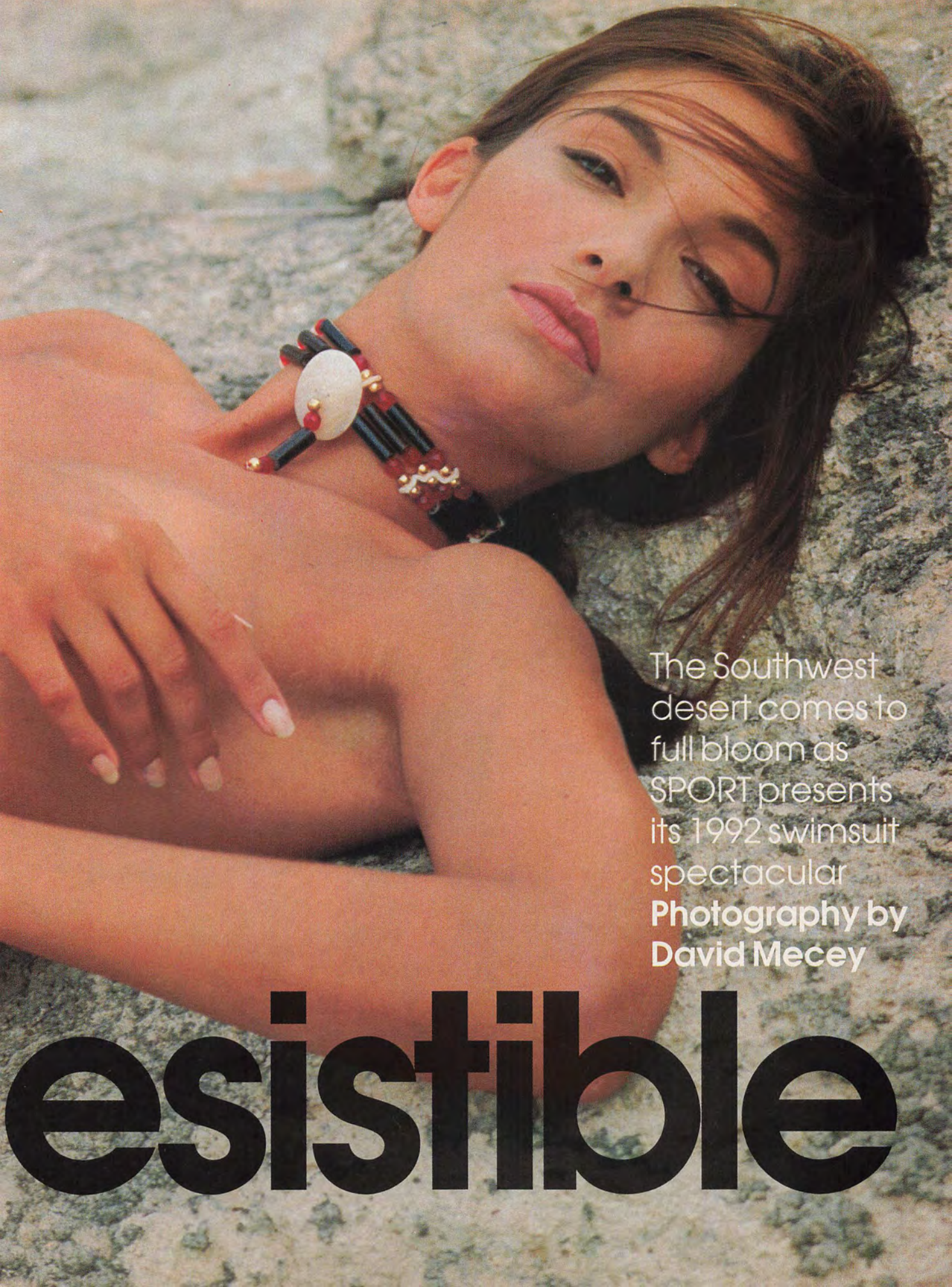
structured for Makar. He left, and there were no more wins. "I wasn't looking to leave," says Makar. "It was spur of the moment. When Joe made his offer, it fit me personally. I'll have more control here."

According to Makar, after good people and equipment, you need a certain chemistry within the team. "It's like a marriage," he says. "Your teammate knows what you're going to say before you say it."

Makar says he communicated well with Wallace because Wallace knew cars and could explain the intricacies of handling so that Makar could make adjustments. Dale Jarrett, who's going to drive the Chevy Lumina for Joe Gibbs Racing, has the same mechanical knowledge that Makar considers so important. They're family too—Makar is married to Jarrett's sister, Patti.



simplyirr

A woman with long brown hair is lying on a light-colored, textured rock. She is wearing a necklace made of black, red, and white beads, with a large white circular pendant. Her eyes are closed, and she has a serene expression. Her right hand is resting on her chest.

The Southwest
desert comes to
full bloom as
SPORT presents
its 1992 swimsuit
spectacular
**Photography by
David Mecey**

esistible



**rachel
april &
symba**

...take a walk
on the wild
side in suits by
Twins-Miami
and **Venus**.



rachel

...strikes a pose
in a suit by
Biondo.

annalee

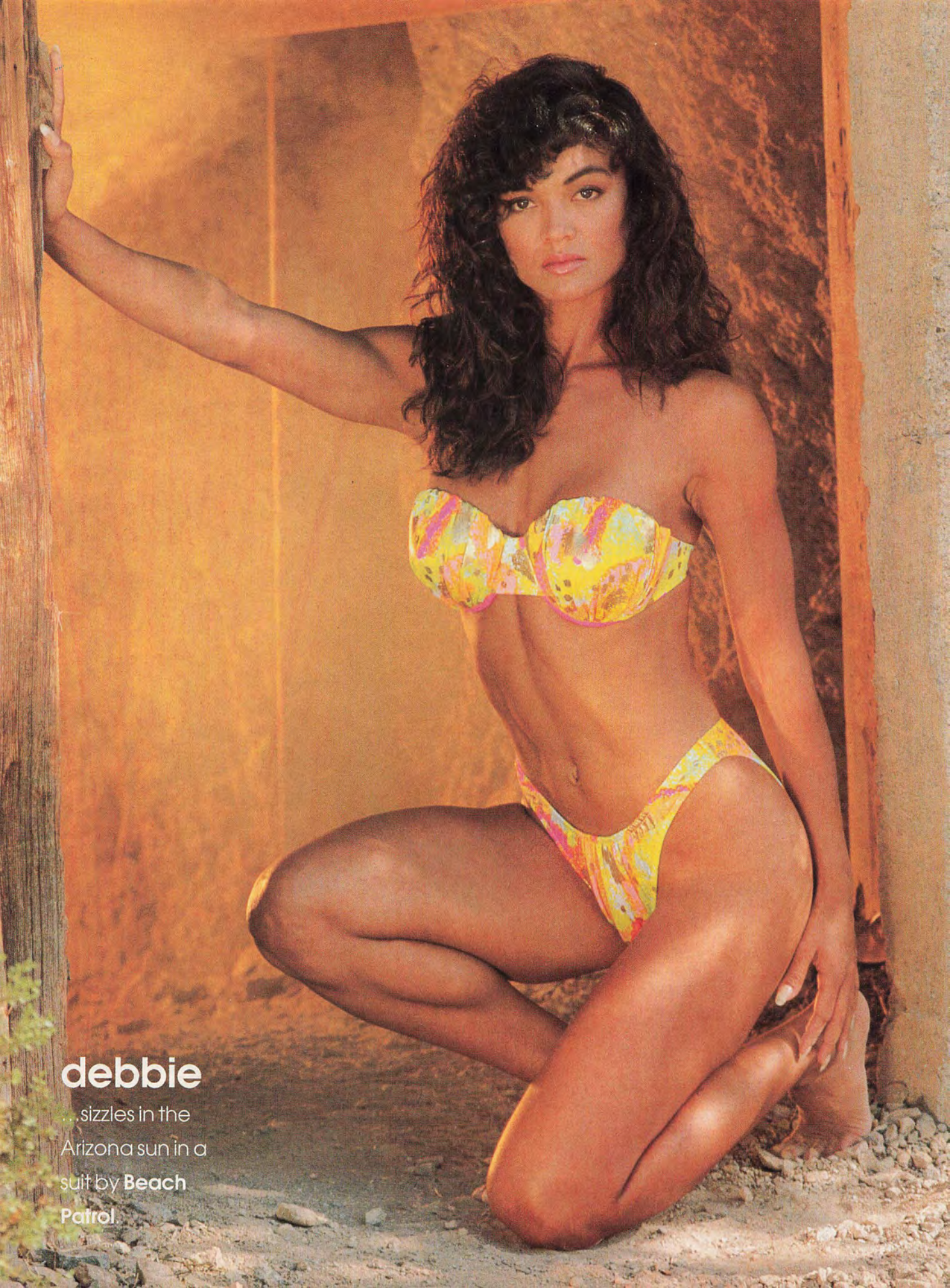
...feels the
warmth of the
sun in a suit by
Rose Marie Reid.





april

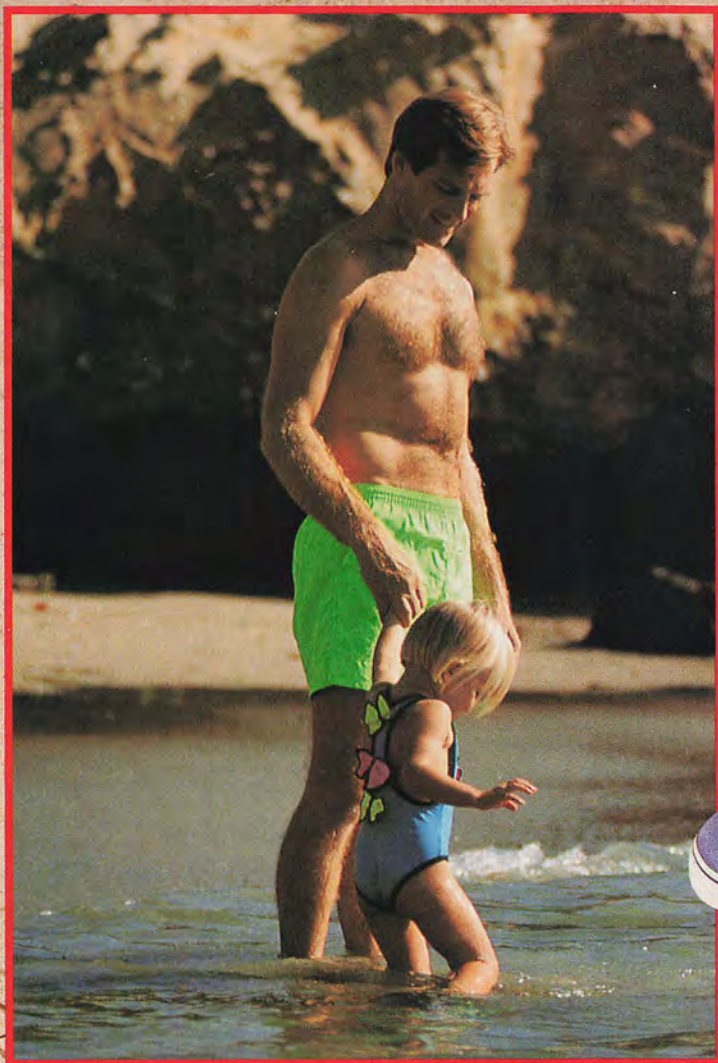
...kicks up a
storm on Lake
Mohave in a
scarf by K&K.



debbie

...sizzles in the
Arizona sun in a
suit by **Beach
Patrol**.

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tani

...escapes
the morning
sun in cutoffs
by Levi's.

Fry BREA
LetTuc
TOMAT
ONion
C Hee



annalee

...radiates her
warmth in a suit
by **Beach Patrol.**





symba

...dresses to thrill
on the Colorado
River in a **Calvin
Klein** one-piece.

A woman with long brown hair is smiling and posing. She is wearing a red bandana with a white paisley pattern around her head. Her bikini top is red and white vertically striped. She is holding the white ties of the bikini bottom at her waist. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green, suggesting a beach or ocean setting.

symba

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comfortable
in a suit by
**Bobbie's
Bikinis.**

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rachel**

...make waves
in suits by Twins-
Miami.

annalee

...catches the
style and flavor of
the West in a suit
by **Beach Patrol**.





raquel

...a tip of the
hat and a smile
in a styled
combinaton
from **Twins-
Miami.**



A full-page photograph of a woman with long brown hair, smiling and posing in shallow water. She is wearing a bright yellow, string-style bikini. Her hands are behind her head, and her legs are spread apart in the water. The background shows a rocky shoreline and the calm water of Lake Mohave.

symba

...takes a dip in
Lake Mohave,
sporting a
yellow bikini
from **Venus**.

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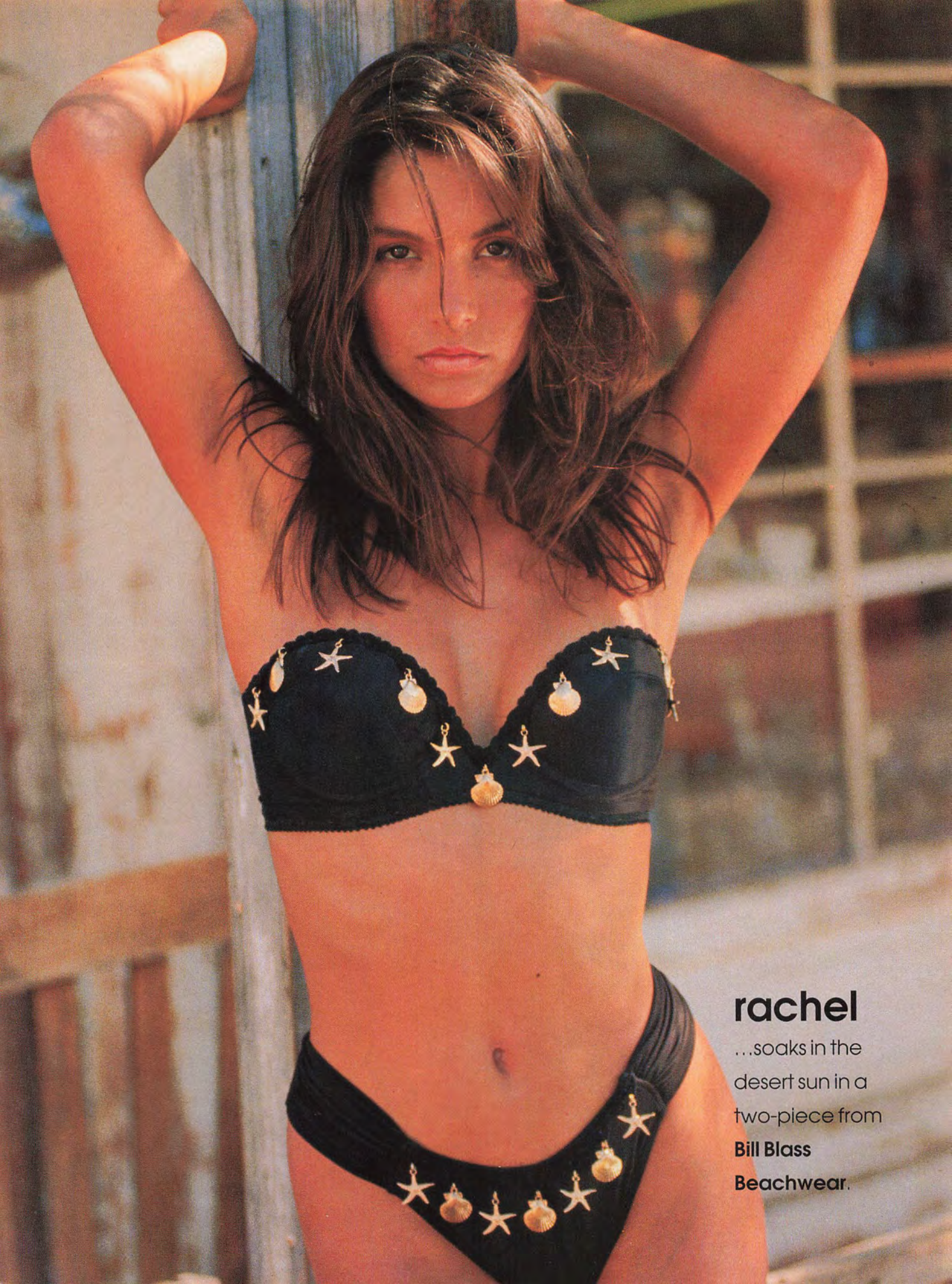
Take the 7-Day Face Test and prove it to yourself: when it comes to saving face, new Post Shave Conditioner from Old Spice is the simple solution.

The simple solution to saving face.

raquel

...leaves little to
the imagination
with a bottom
from **Venus**.





rachel

...soaks in the
desert sun in a
two-piece from
Bill Blass
Beachwear.

annalee

...caught in the
morning light in a
hot number by
Twins-Miami.





symba

...cruises
down the
Colorado
River in a suit
by Daff.

**tani &
debbie**

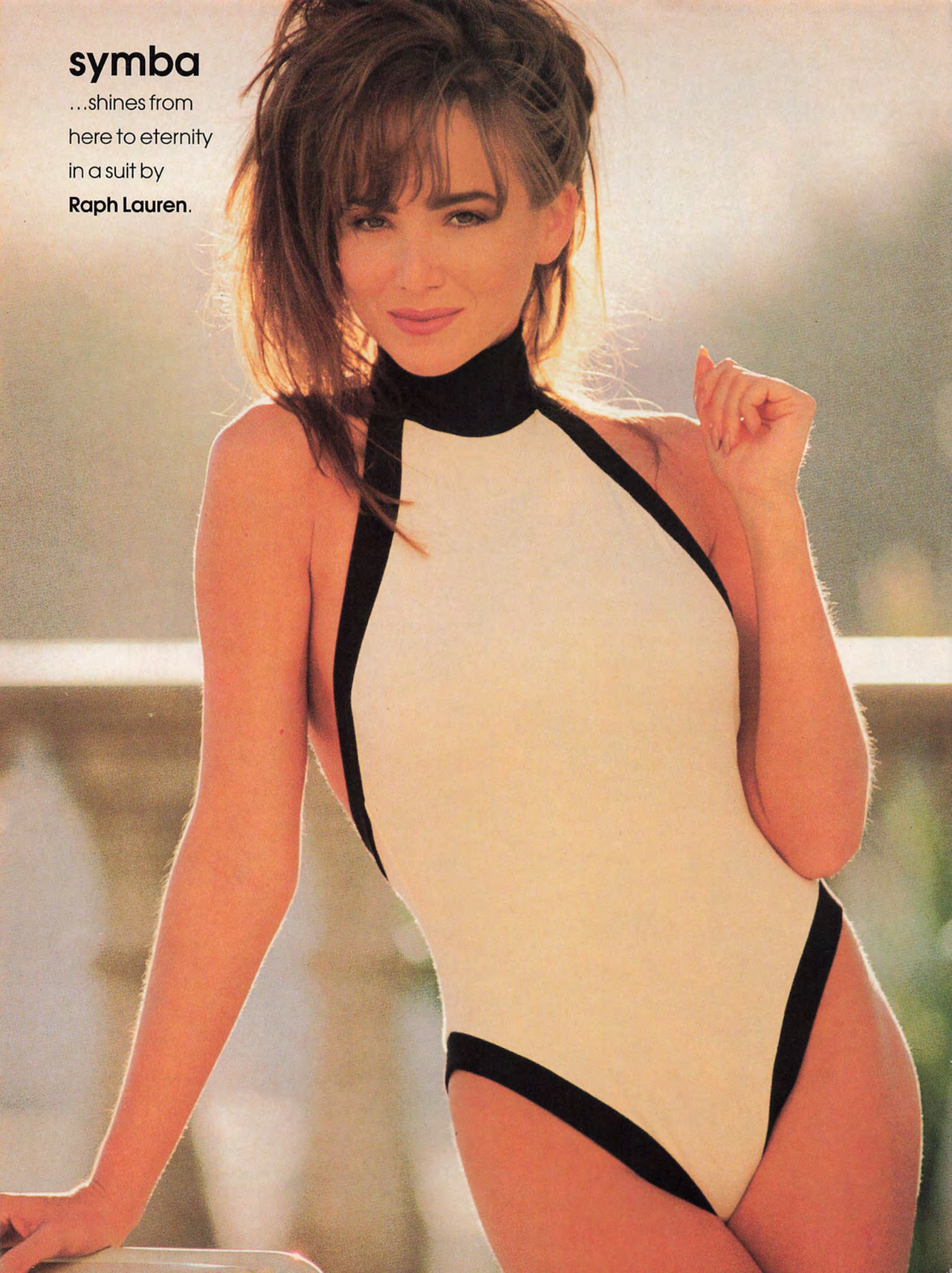
...at home
on the range
in Arizona,
wearing suits by
Beach Patrol.

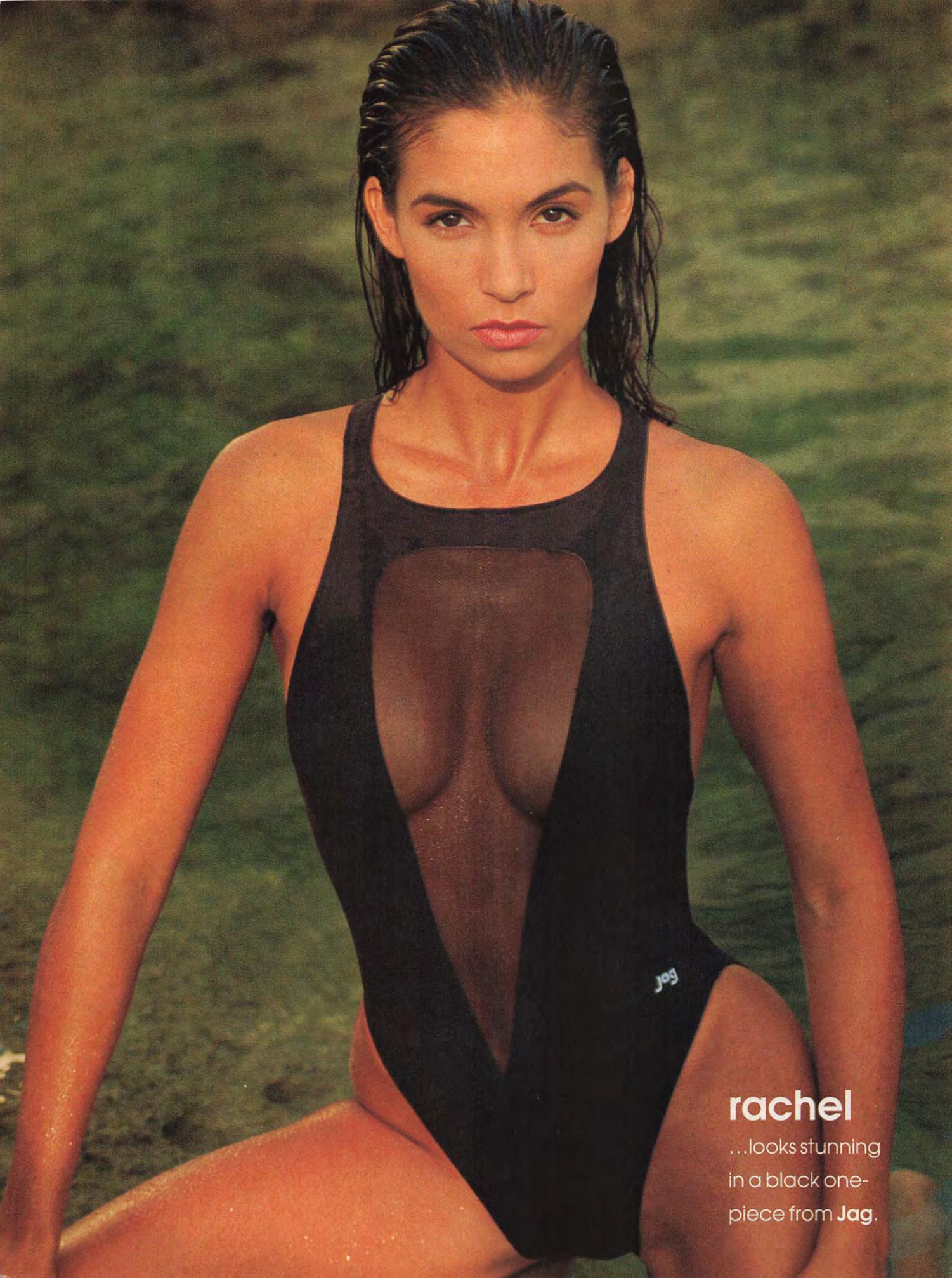




symba

...shines from
here to eternity
in a suit by
Raph Lauren.





rachel

...looks stunning
in a black one-
piece from **Jag**.



symba

...sports a
wild-eyed
look at Del Rio
Beach Club,
wearing a
**Cole of
California** suit.



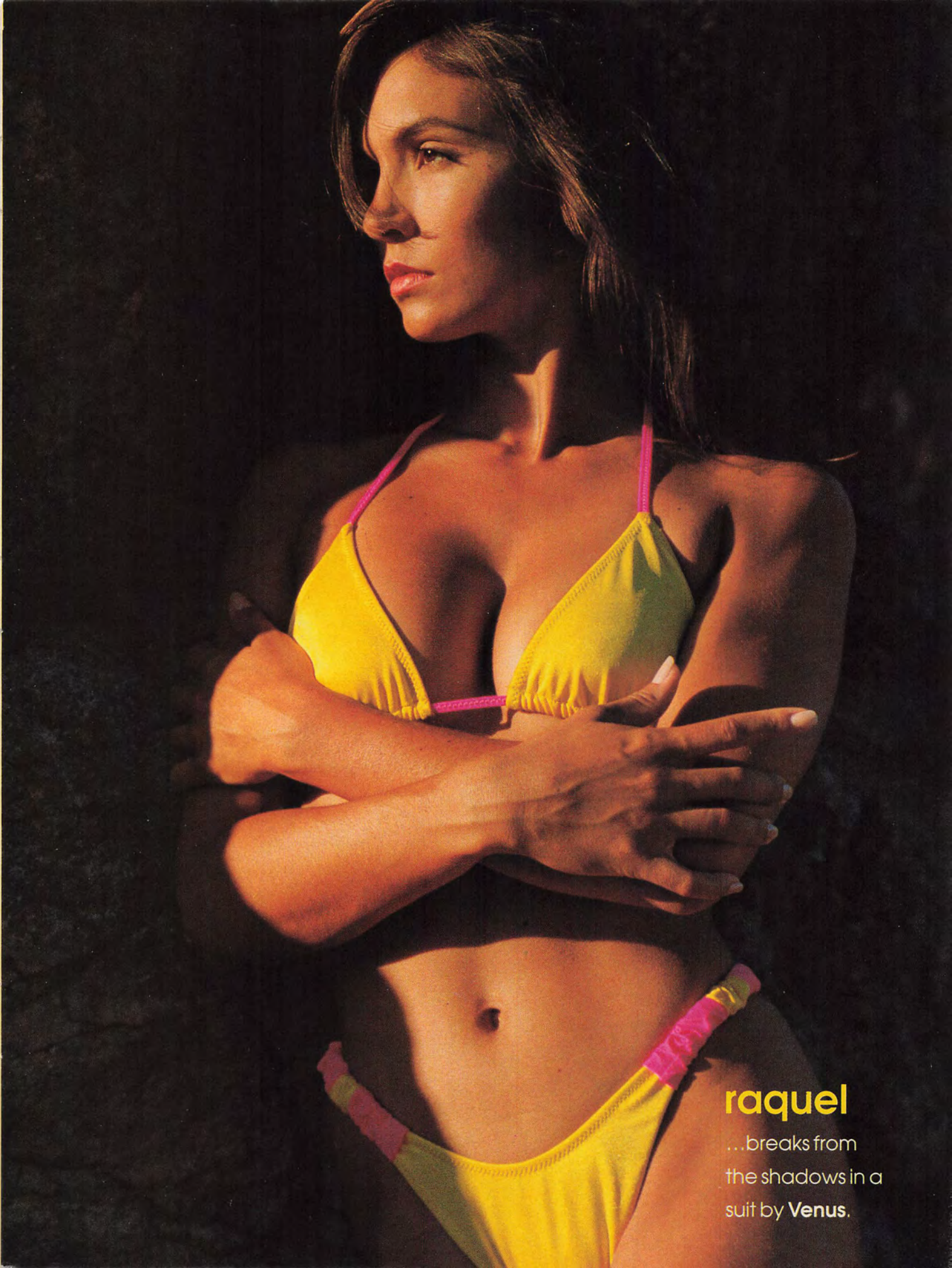
raquel

... gets misty at
Harrah's
Laughlin in a
black one-
piece from
Contempo.

A full-page photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair. She is wearing a black, form-fitting one-piece swimsuit that features a series of horizontal oval cutouts along the side. She is posing with her head tilted back, eyes closed, and her hands are raised behind her head, with her fingers running through her hair. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with warm, golden-brown tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The lighting is soft and directional, highlighting the contours of her body and the texture of her hair.

raquel

...enjoys the
evening air in a
stunner by **K&K**.



raquel

...breaks from
the shadows in a
suit by **Venus**.



raquel

...stretches out on
a Lake Mohave
beach in a suit by
Venus.



A full-page action photograph of Shawn Kemp, a Seattle SuperSonics player, in mid-air performing a slam dunk. He is wearing a green and white Sonics jersey with the number 40. A defender in a white jersey is jumping behind him, trying to block the shot. The basketball hoop and net are visible above Kemp's head. The background shows a crowded arena.

SUPER SONIC

IN HIS THIRD SEASON IN THE NBA, 22-YEAR-OLD SHAWN KEMP HAS PROVEN HE BELONGS

In the dimly lit Coliseum along the NBA exhibition trail, the 3,500-plus fans in Spokane, Washington, move to the edge of their seats as Shawn Kemp accelerates from the wing toward the basket.

Five times in the quarter, the young forward of the Seattle SuperSonics brings the crowd to its feet with trademark slam dunks. There's no reason to expect anything less this time...except for a slight nudge and a slick spot on the floor.

Kemp goes down. Goes down hard. He buries his face in the floor as the physical pain, coupled with the mental anguish, overwhelms him.

"I thought it was a disaster," says Sonics coach K.C. Jones.

"I couldn't believe it," says guard Dana Barros, Kemp's best friend on the team. "Shawn had never been hurt before. You'd never think he would get hurt."

Neither did Kemp. In uncommon fashion, he rebuffed interviews after the game, his left foot packed in ice on an uncomfortable table in the antiquated locker room.

"Talk to the doctors," he says. "I have nothing more to say."

Just plenty to think about.

His mind raced that night. Just as Barros and his teammates never considered the 6-foot-10, 245-pound Kemp capable of injury, he had never

BY MIKE KAHN



NOW THERE ARE TWO BIG WAYS TO ENJOY CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP.

New Chunky Classic Chicken Noodle. It's an honest chicken noodle soup made the Chunky way. Big. Huge chunks of chicken, broad noodles, celery and carrots all in a hearty chicken broth. Chicken noodle soup just like you'd expect only bigger.

Chunky Chicken Noodle with Mushrooms. This chicken noodle soup has always been a favorite. So now you have a big choice to make. Then again, nobody says you have to choose.

CHUNKY. SOUP SO BIG, IT EATS LIKE A MEAL.

pondered life without basketball until that late-October night as the Sonics flew over the Cascade Mountains toward home.

"I thought about everything," Kemp says now. "Until I found out it wasn't broken the next day, it was hard to relax. What could I do without basketball? Even after I knew it wasn't broken, when they told me I wouldn't play for three or four weeks, what was I going to do? How do I watch the games and not put myself into it? What if the foot doesn't feel right when I do come back?"

Generally a picture of composure with a serious demeanor that belies his youth, this was different. He had made it to the NBA without the benefit of a college education. But reality swelled at an even pace with the foot. The prospect of no basketball and no college education hit him hard.

"Let's just say it was a long night," he says.

In less than a month, the swelling subsided, and Kemp returned to play for the Sonics on November 26—his 22nd birthday. His 21 points in 23 minutes were highlighted by seven dunks and four steals. The crowning play was a block of his long-time buddy, rookie Billy Owens, attempting to release a shot at the end of the third quarter.

"That was the best," says Kemp. "Finally, I got to play against somebody my own age. I've been friends with Billy since eighth or ninth grade. It's all starting to come together."

With all the buzzing around the NBA about Kemp and the expectations for his impending superstardom, he has had to be kept in check by his coach from time to time. Kemp spoke a little too loudly about playing only 23 minutes against the Warriors, so he played even less three days later at Denver despite the early departure of fellow forward Derrick McKey, who pulled a groin muscle. Kemp's youth stands out as powerfully as his slams. The funda-

DALEE TAIT-SPORT/GRAPHICS



Kemp's thunderous dunks have the rest of the league watching in awe.

mentals of the game and life sometimes don't concur with Kemp's performance.

"That concerns me a little bit," Jones says. "The oohs and the aahs of the fans, and Shawn's mouth gapes open. That's just part of his game that can't get in the way of the rest of the game. He can't get too caught up with himself and forget about what the team has going here. The thing he has going for him along with his skills is his love for the game and his work ethic. You can't teach those things. That's at the core of what will make him a great player."

Shawn Kemp realizes this is his livelihood. A job—albeit filled with glamour—that requires unrelenting work habits and total focus. That is why he

has gone to Pete Newell's Big Man's Camp for three years and played in both the Utah and L.A. summer leagues before this season, his third in the NBA.

"He worked all summer, and that helps," Jones says. "It's a natural thing for him to go after rebounds and blocks. The good thing is, he doesn't need to be motivated. But he didn't have any college to have as a base, so he needed to work on the fundamental parts of the game. When to drive. When to shoot. To take what's there. That's all experience. Patience. Those are all things he has to learn."

Like Owens and Georgetown's Alonzo Mourning, Kemp was a high school phenom. But after he left Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana, for the University of Kentucky, he was forced to sit out because of Proposition 48. He then transferred to Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, following the alleged purchase of stolen jewelry. Still ineligible, Kemp declared himself hardship to join Joe Graboski, Bill Willoughby, Darryl Dawkins and Moses

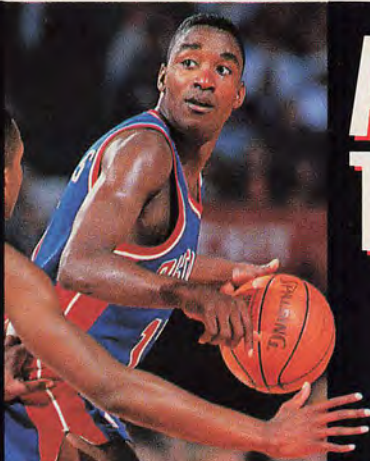
Malone as the only NBA players to never have played college basketball.

After bringing him in for a pre-draft workout with other Sonics at a local athletic club, then-coach Bernie Bickerstaff and team president Bob Whitsitt were enthralled enough to make pre-draft deals with Golden State and Philadelphia to acquire the 16th and 17th picks of the 1989 draft. The Sonics grabbed Barros, then Kemp.

"A lot of guys assumed the worst about Shawn without knowing him," Whitsitt says. "Now that it turns out he's a good kid with great talent, everybody is saying they wanted him. If he turns out to be an all-star, then those same people who backed away and didn't know him will be saying they knew all along he'd be great."

"The thing he has going for him along with his skills is his love for the game and his work ethic. You can't teach those things. That's at the core of what will make him a great player." — K.C. Jones

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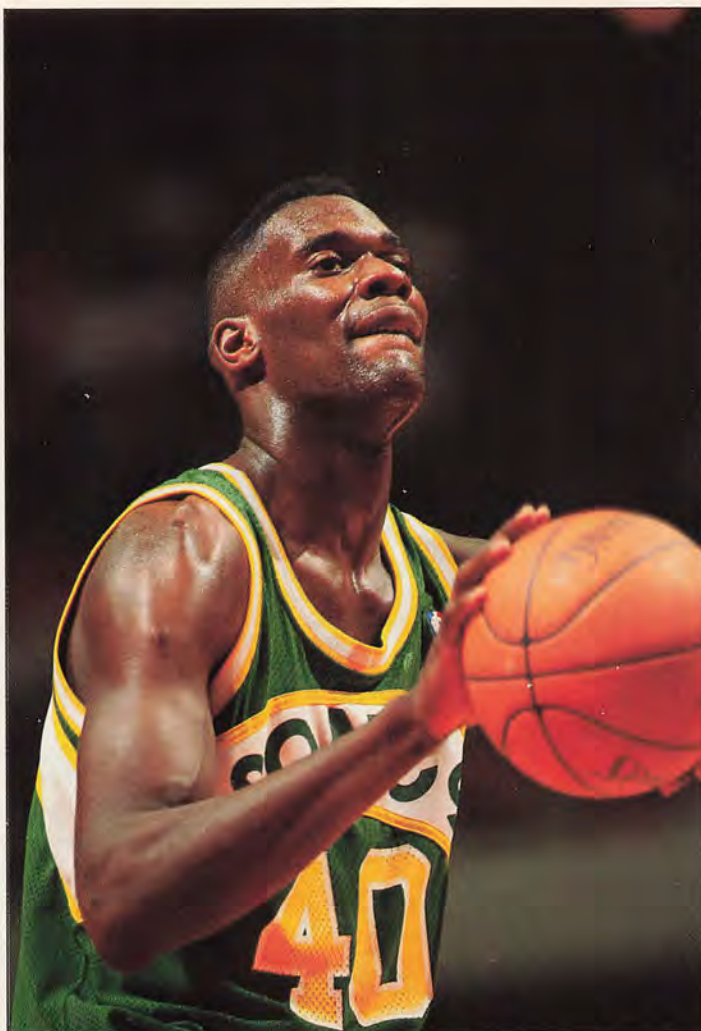
Kemp has yet to prove he's a great player. Just being a frequent contributor to the nightly highlight films and an annual participant at the slam-dunk contest isn't enough. He wants to be voted to the All-Star Game and, of course, win the dunk contest.

The Sonics opened the door for Kemp in December of 1990, when they dealt Xavier McDaniel to Phoenix for Eddie Johnson and draft choices. With Johnson a noted bench player, McKey was able to slide back to his natural small-forward position and Kemp was inserted at power forward. He started extremely fast, averaging 18 to 20 points, 10 to 12 rebounds and a couple of blocks in his first dozen games. But he cooled off and finished with respectable totals of 15 points, 8.4 rebounds and 1.5 blocks in 66 games as a starter.

"At the time, I didn't know if I was ready for it. All I knew is that was what I wanted and would try to make the best out of it," he says. "The thing is, I knew I would have to step up and be consistent. I did more than I thought I was going to do at first because I came out and played so well. I didn't run into any problems until teams started concentrating on me more, sending an extra man over to guard me. Those were things I just had to learn about."

The natural strength, quickness and jumping, plus the daunting expressions after a particularly impressive move, all bear a striking resemblance to Michael Jordan. And that has hardly gone unnoticed by Jordan, who chuckled when asked about the similarities. Kemp's display of 49 points in Magic Johnson's charity All-Star game last summer overwhelmed more than just the fans.

"Shawn has that great combination of skill and creativity," says Jordan. "He is very similar to the way I was when I was



Kemp's on-the-job training includes working on such fundamentals as free-throw shooting.

younger. It was hard at North Carolina because I wanted to do all these things, but I was in a system that didn't let me do them. Shawn's been able to learn while he's in the NBA, and that's different.

"I was able to learn to use those creative skills within the fundamentals of the game a little more because of my coaching. He has to learn to apply those skills and the fundamentals into the framework of a game. I was like that my last year in college, and it's all a matter of him maturing like I did. He has the same thing that makes me dangerous: the creativity and the skill to pull it off. Nobody knows what to expect, and that's the fun part."

Fun it is, to watch Kemp. He gets caught in the undisciplined web of dribbling too often and forcing plays that

FOCUS ON SPORTS

aren't there. The dependability factor weighs heavily on Jones as the Sonics jockey for playoff position. Kemp is the antithesis of the equally talented but impassive McKey, who has to be prodded constantly to shoot and take control of the basketball. What Jones wants from Kemp are the elementary moves of boxing out for rebounds, setting picks, making the offensive and defensive reads, and taking what's there.

The comparison to Darryl Dawkins is simple, but it isn't necessarily accurate.

"Dawkins had as much talent as Shawn," says Jones. "But he never worked at it, so he never improved. A player with limited talents who works hard can be a good player. A player with a lot of talent who works hard should reach greatness. That's what will take Shawn to the next level."

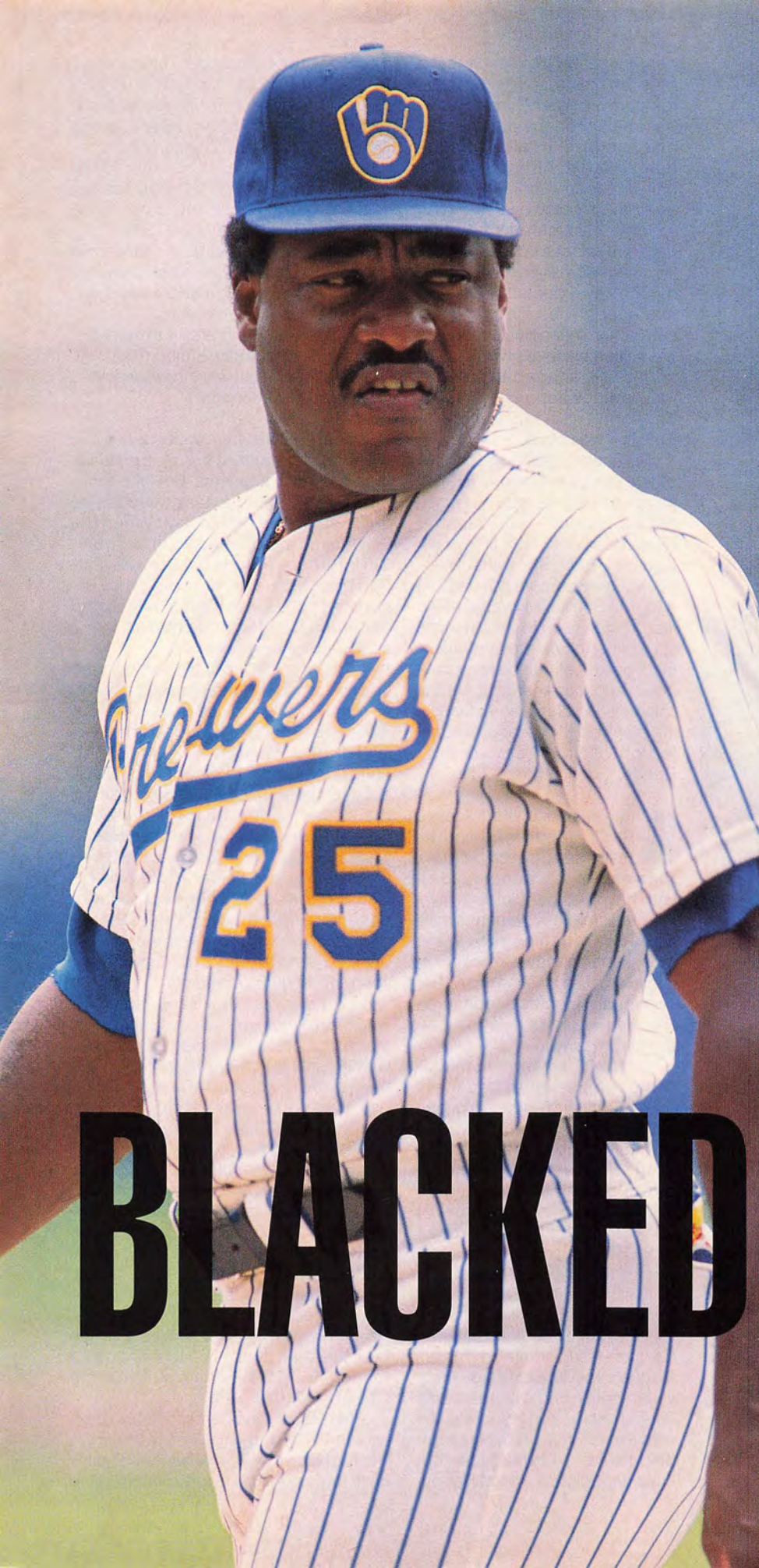
Which is exactly what Kemp has in mind. He is just finishing up the third year of a six-year, \$3.6 million contract. Again showing uncommon maturity, Kemp knows he can equal his total contract in one season should he continue on

that upward spiral. At this point, he's considering going back to school in the summer, playing out the contract, then testing the free-agent market. Priorities tell him to win a championship, become an all-star, and he'll make more money than he'll ever need.

"I'm in no hurry," Kemp says. "When I was first drafted, I wanted everything because I couldn't see anything. Now I have a feel for what this is all about—the people who can help you, the people who can hurt you, how to prepare every night to play a game. This is my job. This is my life. And I'm lucky to be here. The important thing is to make the most of it."★

Mike Kahn covers the SuperSonics for the Tacoma Morning News Tribune.

"He has the same thing that makes me dangerous: the creativity and the skill to pull it off. Nobody knows what to expect, and that's the fun part." — Michael Jordan



RON WESLEY
It's getting on five years since Al Campanis crashed and burned on national television, divulging his theory that blacks lacked the "necessities" (a fuzzy euphemism for brainpower) to manage major-league clubs. Campanis, you'll remember, forgot the golden rule—when you're in a hole, stop digging—and proceeded to lecture us on the biologically untenable relationship between blacks, buoyancy and swimming. But a positive spin was hastily placed on his remarks. It was believed that they would sharpen the awareness of existing racism within baseball's front offices and fuel minority hiring.

If the approaching five-year anniversary of Campanis' *Nightline* ap-

IN THE FLURRY
OF RECENT
MANAGERIAL
HIRINGS,
MINORITY
CANDIDATES
WERE AGAIN
PASSED OVER.
BY JEFF
WEINSTOCK

BLACKED OUT

Losing out to first-time managerial hires in Milwaukee and Seattle, Don Baylor went to St. Louis to be a hitting instructor.

CAREER OBJECTIVE: To develop and lead a major league team as a manager to the winningest record in baseball.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

1990-Present	MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, Field Manager/Baseball Clinic Coordinator. Ambassadors of Baseball.	Pittsburgh, PA
1989-1990	ST. PETERSBURG PELICANS Field Manager - Senior Professional Baseball League.	St. Petersburg, FL
1988-1989	BALTIMORE ORIOLES Field Manager - Class A New York-Penn League.	Baltimore, MD
1987	SEATTLE MARINERS Batting Coach - Duties also included base running and bunting instructions.	Seattle, WA
1986	SEATTLE MARINERS Roving Minor League Batting Instructor and Base Running Specialist.	Seattle, WA
1984-1985	SAN DIEGO PADRES Field Manager - Double A Texas League. In two winning seasons, compiled a combined win/loss record of 138-114 for overall .581 percentage.	San Diego, CA
	SAN DIEGO PADRES SPEAKERS BUREAU Public Relations Representative, during the off-season.	San Diego, CA
1980-1983	SAN DIEGO PADRES Batting Coach - Duties also included base running and outfield instruction.	San Diego, CA
	SAN DIEGO PADRES SPEAKERS BUREAU Public Relations Representative, during the off-season.	San Diego, CA
1979	SAN DIEGO PADRES Outfielder / First Baseman.	San Diego, CA
1978	NANKAI HAWKS Outfielder / First Baseman.	Osaka, Japan
1977	PITTSBURGH PIRATES Outfielder / First Baseman.	Pittsburgh, PA
1976-1977	PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES Outfielder / First Baseman.	Philadelphia, PA
1974-1975	SAN DIEGO PADRES Outfielder / First Baseman.	San Diego, CA
1969-1973	CINCINNATI REDS Outfielder / First Baseman.	Cincinnati, OH
1963 - 1968	SAINT LOUIS CARDINALS Outfielder.	Saint Louis, MO

ACHIEVEMENTS:

1984	As Manager, led the Gators (S.D. Padres AA Affiliate) to the Western Division title.
1967-1976	Appeared in four National League Championship Series and four World Series.
1971	Most Valuable Player - San Diego Padres.
1972	Comeback Player of the Year, Fred Hutchinson Award.
1970	Led Major League in stolen bases (57).

pearance didn't itself suggest a re-examination of African-American employment progress in baseball, then the past year of managerial hirings and firings demanded it. Although baseball's minority employment figures have swelled overall behind a determined affirmative-action program, blacks in baseball still find themselves virtually shut out of high-level decision-making managerial jobs. This off-season, seven managing vacancies were filled by seven whites, and of the 14 managerial replacements since January, 1, 1991, only one—Hal McRae of the Royals—was black.

Particularly galling is that five of the seven off-season hires have no major-league managerial experience—Bill Plummer (Seattle), Butch Hobson (Boston), Buck Showalter (Yankees), Gene Lamont (White Sox) and Phil Garner (Milwaukee)—a factor often used to deny minority applicants. As the network of cronyism that has so long monopolized managerial positions appeared to dismantle, deserving black candidates were again left out. "Why?" says Bobby Bonds. "I don't know."

What you hear in the voices of black managerial candidates resonates deeper than anger. It's anger spiced with bewilderment and a growing fatalism. They want answers about as much as they want jobs, sensing they are caught in a system that isn't honest, that continually juggles or obscures the rules in midrace to keep them from power.

"I didn't become a manager in the minor leagues because I was established in New York as a hitting instructor," says Bill Robinson, Mets batting coach from 1984 to 1989. "The next best thing was to manage in Venezuela during the winter of 1988. We won the Caribbean World Series. I caught malaria. I proved that I could manage."

"One time, I was interviewed by a major-league GM, and he told me that he couldn't hire me, because I didn't have any major-league experience. I said, 'Gee, you're talking about that same old criteria again.' You know what he said to me? 'It protects me from being fired.' ... I'm not bitter, but I'm disappointed. You talk about

credentials to be a manager, I have them."

"Take my case," says Bonds, who spent four seasons as Cleveland's hitting instructor until being released along with the rest of fired manager's Pat Corrales' staff after the '87 season. "Cory Snyder, Joe Carter and Brook Jacoby had their best years under me. How come I can't find another job? Bill Robinson did a good job with the Mets. He never resurfaced. When a black person is fired, it's like he didn't do a good job. There are no second chances."

"I made a lot of phone calls to the clubs, and it's always the same thing. They say, 'Bobby, I'll get back to you in two weeks.' I never hear from them again."

The name Don Baylor sits at the fulcrum of the current dialogue on black managerial prospects. Baylor is monitored like the Iowa caucuses; as he goes, so go the rest of 'em. When the Milwaukee job opened up in October, Baylor's two years as the Brewers' hitting coach plus his standing as a respected 17-year vet and a celebrated clubhouse leader made him a natural candidate for the position.

When the job went to Garner, who had no managing experience at any level, a liability often raised in his own candidacy, Baylor quickly doused simmering talk of racism, saying, "I'm not getting caught up in the racial thing. That's definitely overrated. It's who's qualified, the best man for the job." But after watching the two clubs he interviewed with take opposite directions, the Brewers choosing an outsider and Seattle selecting one of its own (Plummer), Baylor asked exasperatedly: "What are the rules? Do you have to be in the organization? I was with the Brewers for two years, and it didn't matter."

No one denies that Sal Bando, Milwaukee's director of baseball operations, made a colorblind decision in opting for Garner, but his kind words for Baylor—"I think he will be a good manager someday. It's only a matter of time before he becomes a manager"—came with the same tired, keep-your-chin-up platitudes that have been traditionally intended to pacify disenfranchised minorities.

"I know Sal Bando very well. I know Sal is not a racist," says Bonds. "The Brewers didn't hire [Baylor], because he was a coach, and he was too close to the players. That means Sal Bando can never hire a coach from the Brewers' coaching staff. If Bando hires a coach from the staff, then he becomes a racist for not hiring Don. That will show the type of individual Sal is."

After Baylor, and perhaps before Baylor, Chris Chambliss is considered the leading black managerial hopeful. Chambliss has taken the traditional route. In



"[First-base coach and hitting instructor] are not positions of authority. You know that the owners won't hire those men to be managers."
—Bobby Tolan, prospective major-league manager

each of the last two seasons, he received Eastern and Southern League manager of the year awards respectively—in '90 with the Detroit Tigers' London, Ontario, club and in '91 with the Atlanta Braves' Greenville, South Carolina, team. Chambliss was a finalist for the White Sox managerial vacancy but lost out to Lamont, whose ties with Chicago GM Ron Schueler went back to 1986, when the two coached together in Pittsburgh.

Schueler, though, abundantly praised Chambliss' qualifications, and it would seem that Chambliss has built mainstream recognition as major-league material. Former Angels general manager Mike Port says that in anticipation of being hired as the GM for the expansion Denver franchise, he prepared a short list of prospective personnel, one that included Chris Chambliss. Port, who eventually did not land the Denver job, expresses deep affection for Chambliss "by virtue of past acquaintance with him and his family." (Port went to college with Chris' elder brother, Frank.) "Here is a fellow," Port says of Chambliss, "who has all of the attributes and, very much to his credit, is going about it the right way."

"The right way" winds through the right people. Among the best moves Chambliss ever made was growing up with a brother who knew Mike Port. Isn't the heart of the matter right there in Port's phrase "by virtue of past acquaintance"? Chambliss lost out to Lamont in pursuit of the White Sox position, but if the two were competing for a managerial opening where Port was doing the choosing, would it not have gone the other way because of Chambliss' personal connections to Port? And isn't the relationship between Chambliss and Port unusual? That may be the mechanism in all of this that is the least recognized, or least admitted, but most significant. In a society that remains mostly segregated, it is still the exception where social circles cross racially. It remains more likely that white men will have white friends. Although no one confesses it works like this, rather than choosing from the best candidates, owners and GMs more often appear to choose from the best of their acquaintances, commonly an all-white field.

Says Port, "[General managers] are just probably a bit inclined to go with someone where they feel they have a better read as to what their personality is going to be as a manager." According to Port, GMs, charged with winning immediately, feel "a certain comfort level" in going with whom they know. This is precisely the network of familiarity that minorities do not participate in. The old-boy brigade is in fact alive and well, just with some new members. But the initiation fee—past ac-

quaintance—is unchanged.

"Maybe it does in a sense constitute a good-old-boy thing," says Port, "although I don't think it's intended.... I don't say that it is right and proper. I'm just saying that by virtue of circumstances, oftentimes that seems to be the case."

Bonds puts it simpler: "If you have a friend, you have a job."

As disturbing as the slow movement in black managerial hirings is, equally and potentially more distressing because of its unshakeable stench of racism, is the complete exclusion of blacks from third-base coaching duties. Of the 106 black on-field employees last season, none resided in the third-base coaching box, where critical decisions are made. The third-base coaching assignment is also a traditional layover for future managers. Instead, the current pool of black coaches is largely divided between batting instructors and first-base coaches.

Says Bobby Tolan, a former batting coach with the Padres and the Mariners: "Those are not positions of authority. You know that the owners won't hire those men to be managers."

Who will break through next? Port identifies a "win-now tendency" that directs all personnel decisions and makes it most likely that a black candidate will fill a midseason opening, when the pool of veteran managers is limited and clubs are more willing to gamble. In fact, the only two current black major-league managers, Cito Gaston and McRae, were both midseason hires.

The model case history to chart is Chambliss'. Chambliss is young, good and in the system. And he's got friends. Two features distinguish him from the majority of his colleagues—his record and his race, the latter of which we're told never enters the discussion. But how much the promotion of one minority, or two or 10, means is questionable. Bonds' despondent equation between friends and jobs suggests that the only real change that will bring equity is a change in the way power gets passed around. And that's something that may not be up for bargaining. ★

William Ladson contributed to this story.



MARCUS LEVINE

"I'm not bitter, but I'm disappointed. You talk about credentials to be a manager, I have them."

**—Bill Robinson,
prospective major-league
manager**

MAJOR-LEAGUE EMPLOYEES

FRONT-OFFICE EMPLOYEES

	1988	1989	1990	1991
TOTAL EMPLOYEES	1,495	1,854	2,032	2,216
BLACK EMPLOYEES	85	163	182	196

ON-FIELD STAFF

	1988	1989	1990	1991
TOTAL EMPLOYEES	1,306	1,588	1,673	1,608
BLACK EMPLOYEES	62	102	100	106

COLUMBIA
HOUSE

MUSIC GUIDE

LOOK WHO'S AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

MARIAH CAREY—EMOTIONS.
Title Cut; Can't Let Go; more.
(Columbia)
428-029



Bonnie Raitt—Luck Of The Draw. Something To Talk About; many more.
(Capitol)
423-186

Natalie Cole—Unforgettable. Title cut; You: The Very Thought Of You; more.
(Elektra)
422-279

Van Halen—For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge. Poundcake; plus more.
(Warner Bros.)
420-273

Paula Abdul—Spellbound. Title cut plus Videology; Rush; Rush; many more.
(Virgin)
420-257

Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers—Into The Great Wide Open. Title cut; more.
(MCA)
429-795

MOLLY HATCHET GREATEST HITS	416-099	OSZY OSBOURNE NO MORE TEARS	428-128
AC/DC The Razor's Edge	410-662	GRATEFUL DEAD Without A Net	410-365
STEVE VAI Passion & Warfare	408-104	JEFF HEALEY BAND Hell To Pay	407-569
BANGLES GREATEST HITS	405-977	DAMN YANKEES	405-886
PRETTY WOMAN Original Soundtrack	405-407	SLAUGHTER STICK IT TO YA	404-830
M.C. HAMMER Please Hammer Don't Hurt Em	403-477	EDDIE MONEY Greatest Hits Sound Of Money	403-428
BASIA: London Warsaw New York	401-752	PAT BENATAR BEST SHOTS	401-646
MICHAEL BOLTON—TIME, LOVE & TENDERNESS. Title cut; Missing You Now; etc. (Columbia) 415-711			
CHICAGO Greatest Hits '82-'89	401-166	ROBERT PALMER Additions, Vol. I	400-937
ERIC CLAPTON JOURNEYMAN	400-457	MELISSA ETHERIDGE BRAVE AND CRAZY	388-090
MOTLEY CRUE DR. FEELGOOD	387-944	ROLLING STONES STEEL WHEELS	387-738
CHRIS ISAAK Heart-Shaped World	386-144	PRINCETON STRAITS Brothers In Arms	363-222
BILLY IDOL VITAL IDOL	360-107	ZZ TOP ELIMINATOR	319-624
THE CARS GREATEST HITS	339-903	WILLIE NELSON GREATEST HITS	1311-001
CHARLIE DANIELS Band A Decade Of Hits	321-067	THE POLICE Every Breath You Take—The Singles	348-318
DIONNE WARWICK Greatest Hits (1959-1990)	401-679	THE SMITHS "BLOW UP"	428-854
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK The Prince Of Tides	430-017	THE COMMITMENTS Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	429-753
NAUGHTY BY NATURE NIGHT NOY	429-993	PIXIES Trompe Le Monde	429-571
BROOKS & DUNN BRAND NEW MAN	429-969	REO SPEEDWAGON 403-025	429-871
BRYAN ADAMS Waking Up The Neighbours	429-779	PEBBLES ALWAYS	412-163
LIVING COLOUR TIME'S UP	410-357	THE PLATTERS The Very Best Of The Platters	430-611
PATTI AUSTIN CARRY ON	430-686	BIG DADDY KANE Prince Of Darkness	430-504
GERALD LEVERT PRIVATE LINE	430-629	FRANK SINATRA Greatest Hits, Volume One	430-363

RICHIE SAMPORA Stranger In This Town	427-831	SIMPLE MINDS REAL LIFE	427-203
THE MOODY BLUES Days Of Future Passed	423-749	BLIND FAITH	423-673
THE MONKEES GREATEST HITS	408-203	THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND Brothers & Sisters	423-624
THE BEACH BOYS PET SOUNDS	367-193	TRAFFIC: John Barleycorn Must Die	364-935
ARETHA FRANKLIN GREATEST HITS	1350-793	ROLLING STONES STICKY FINGERS	350-645
THE DOORS L.A. WOMAN	340-810	SIMON & GARFUNKEL GREATEST HITS	219-477
JACKSON BROWNE The Pretender	292-243	R.E.M.—OUT OF TIME. Losing My Religion; Shiny Happy People; etc. (Warner Bros.) 417-923	
EAGLES Hotel California	286-948	RUSH Moving Pictures	423-798
MEAT LOAF Bat Out Of Hell	279-133	TRIXTER	410-266
THE ESSENTIAL LITTLE RICHARD	414-854	WILSON PHILLIPS	406-793
JOHN LENNON/ YOKO ONO Double Fantasy	380-774	BOYZ N THE HOOD Music From The Motion Pictures	426-908
ROD STEWART Every Picture Tells A Story	423-814	Best Of Atlanta Rhythm Section	427-500
LIVING COLOUR TIME'S UP	410-357	Very Best Of The Everly Brothers	372-912
MARIAH CAREY	407-510	GRATEFUL DEAD American Beauty	358-895

BOYZ N THE HOOD Music From The Motion Pictures	426-908	VANESSA WILLIAMS The Comfort Zone	426-510
Best Of Atlanta Rhythm Section	427-500	ERIC CLAPTON 461 Ocean Boulevard	423-442
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VAN MORRISON MOONDANCE	349-803	JETHRO TULL AQUALUNG	345-157
MOTOWN'S 25 #1 HITS	1318-996	VARIOUS ARTISTS Simply Mad About The Music	428-789
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FLEETWOOD MAC RUMOURS	286-914	LINDA RONSTADT GREATEST HITS	286-740
BILLY JOEL THE STRANGER	277-491	BOSTON	269-209
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN BORN TO RUN	257-279	AEROSMITH Toys In The Attic	254-912
ROD STEWART Downstream Train/ Greatest Hits	425-322	JAMES BROWN The CD Of JB: Like Mother and Other Soul Classics	425-025
RIGHTeous BROTHERS The Very Best Of Unchained Melody	423-772	POISON FLESH & BLOOD	408-963
ALIAS	409-789	STEVE RAY VAUGHAN & DOUBLE TROUBLE IN STEP	382-374
BAD COMPANY HOLY WATER	406-694	BOB DYLAN GREATEFUL DEAD Dylan & The Dead	378-117

BOB DYLAN GREATEST HITS	138-586	THE MOODY BLUES The Moody Blues Legend Of A Band (Greatest Hits)	423-756
DAVID BOWIE Greatest Hits	1412-247	CHANGEBOWIE (Greatest Hits)	392-241
BEACH BOYS MADE IN U.S.A.	1348-110	BEACH BOYS MADE IN U.S.A.	396-440
ELTON JOHN GREATEST HITS	319-541	JAMES TAYLOR GREATEST HITS	291-302
THE TRAVELING WILBURYS VOL. 1	375-089	CHICAGO GREATEST HITS	260-638
REO SPEEDWAGON Greatest Hits	367-672	THE CULT SONIC TEMPLE	381-798
INXS KICK	361-519	DIRE STRAITS Money For Nothing	375-055
AEROSMITH CLASSICS LIVE	343-806	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
JIMMY BUFFETT GREATEST HITS	339-911	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN Born In The U.S.A.	326-629	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
DAN FOGELBERG GREATEST HITS	317-149	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
BARRY MANILOW Greatest Hits	1288-670	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES Shut Up And Die Like An Animal	422-428	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
LINDA RONSTADT Cry Like A Rainbow/ Howl Like The Wind	389-874	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
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TONI CHILDS "House Of Hope"	429-647	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
The Best Of Surface A Nice Time & Lovin'	429-555	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443
JAMES INGRAM The Power Of Great Music	429-480	NEIL DIAMOND 12 Greatest Hits, Vol. II	314-443

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HEART BRIGADE	405-555	ALANNAH MYLES 404-475	401-869
KENNY G LIVE	1401-505	BARBRA STREISAND A Collection: Greatest Hits... And More	401-141
PAUL SIMON Hearts & Soul Songs 71-88	1400-721	JANET JACKSON Rhythm Nation 1814	388-918
BILLY JOEL STORM FRONT	387-902	ELTON JOHN Sleeping With The Past	387-993
FAITH NO MORE THE REAL THING	387-399	BILLY JOEL STORM FRONT	387-902
NIGHT RANGER GREATEST HITS	383-729	BONNIE RAITT NICK OF TIME	381-087
BONNIE RAITT NICK OF TIME	381-087	BAD ENGLISH 383-463	383-463
BAD ENGLISH 383-463	383-463	PAULA ABDUL Forever Your Girl	374-637
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LISSETTE MELENDEZ Together Forever	428-391	MARK WHITFIELD PATRICE	428-342
NEIL DIAMOND LOVESCAPE	428-318		

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THE LYNCH MOB Wicked Sensation (MCA) 412-577	MADONNA Immaculate Collection (Greatest Hits) (SMP) 1414-557 394-551	GEORGE BENSON BIG BOSS BAND (WARNER BROS.) 412-478	WHITNEY HOUSTON I'm Your Baby Tonight (A&M) 411-710	DAVID BYRNE THE FOREST (WARNER BROS.) 420-265	BOZ SCAGGS SIL DEGREES (COLUMBIA) 263-400	WARRANT CHERRY PIE (COLUMBIA) 411-389
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AIR SUPPLY The Earth Is... (CAPRICORN) 426-858	DANIEL BARENBOIM Conquaring Symphony No. 1 (CAPRICORN) 426-262	JOE WALSH But Seriously, Folks (A&M) 425-744	OLETA ADAMS CIRCLE OF ONE (EPIC) 424-325	DAVID BYRNE THE FOREST (WARNER BROS.) 420-265	BOZ SCAGGS SIL DEGREES (COLUMBIA) 263-400	VARIOUS ARTISTS HOUSE PARTY II (MCA) 431-387

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FREQUENT FLIERS

How often an NBA player dunks may better illustrate his lack of a varied offensive game than his athletic ability. This list identifies the players who had the highest ratio of dunks per shots made in the '90-91 season (minimum 20 dunks needed to qualify).

PLAYER	DUNKS	SHOTS MADE	PERCENTAGE
MARK WEST	121	247	49.0%
MARK EATON	76	169	45.0%
ELDEN CAMPBELL	24	56	42.9%
DUANE CAUSWELL	88	210	41.9%
MANUTE BOL	26	65	40.0%
SHAWN KEMP	180	462	39.0%
ANDREW LANG	39	109	35.8%
CEDRIC CEBALLOS	63	419	30.9%
DAVID ROBINSON	217	754	28.8%
OTIS THORPE	157	549	28.6%
GREG DREILING	27	98	27.6%
JOHN SALLEY	45	179	25.1%
WILL PERDUE	29	116	25.0%
ANTHONY COOK	28	118	23.7%
JERROD MUSTAF	25	106	23.6%
CHARLES BARKLEY	156	665	23.5%
CHUCKY BROWN	59	263	22.4%
OLDEN POLYNICE	70	316	22.2%
ERIC LECKNER	29	131	22.1%
ORLANDO WOOLRIDGE	106	490	21.6%

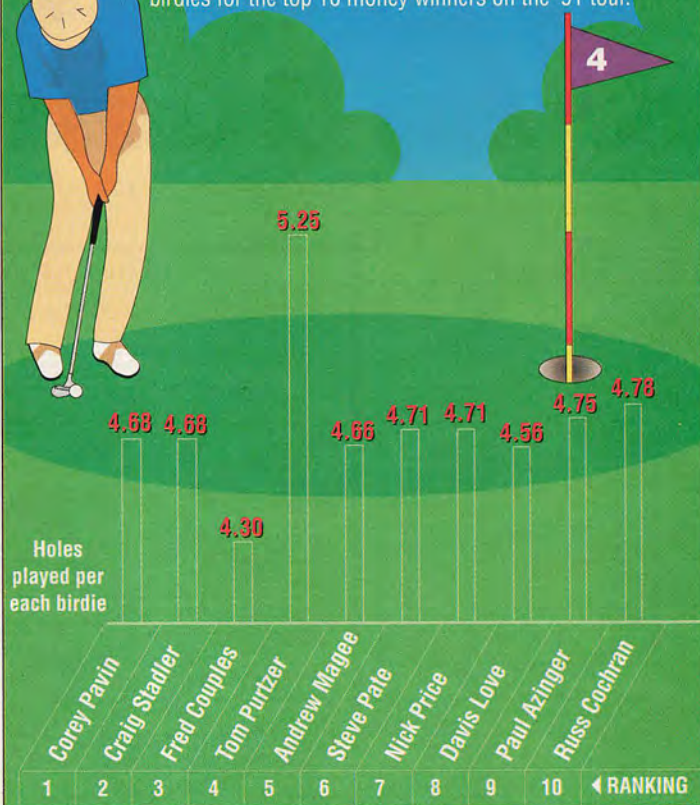
CHARTS BY TRACY CALVERT-JANTZ

COMPILED BY STEVEN WEINSTOCK AND JEFF WEINSTOCK

WATCH THE BIRDIE

Consistent shot making brings consistent paychecks on the PGA Tour.

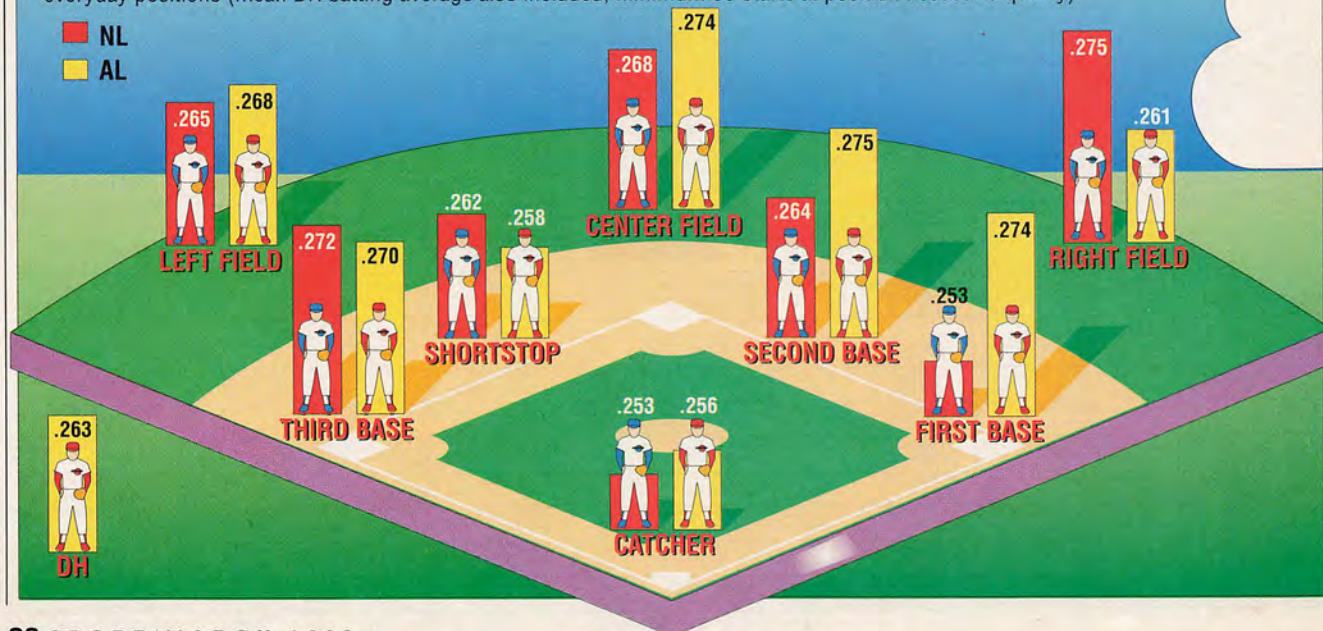
The chart below shows the average amount of holes between birdies for the top 10 money winners on the '91 tour.



EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Below are the mean batting averages from the '91 season for National and American League starters at each of the eight everyday positions (mean DH batting average also included; minimum 50 starts at position needed to qualify).

■ NL
■ AL



THE NHL'S THIN ICE

BETTING ON HOCKEY IS A SLIPPERY PROPOSITION

By Danny Sheridan

Of all of the major sports in this country, hockey is the least familiar to the average gambler. You can, of course, bet on the outcome of the game or on the over/under.

After that, the most important thing to realize is that betting the NHL is risky, since the bettor is usually taking the worst of the odds. During the regular 82-game season, most gamblers are only betting a "puck line."

For example, if the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins are 1-1½ over the New York Rangers, it means that if you like the favorite Penguins, you must lay the 1½ goals, but if you take the underdog Rangers, you are only getting one goal. So breaking down the line, the smaller number is for the underdog, while the bigger number is for the favorite. The real problem for the bettor? The bookmaker has an enormous edge. Using the same example of Pittsburgh and New York, if the Penguins win, 2-1, Pittsburgh backers lose, since they are laying 1½ goals. Rangers supporters "push" (break even), since they're only getting the one goal. That's the problem with the "average public" betting the sport.


In our example, if you bet the favorite, the Penguins have to win by two goals for you to win. If you bet the underdog Rangers, they would have to tie for you to win. The Penguins bettor lost his money, and the Rangers supporter didn't win any.

Most gamblers resent

TRACY CALVERT-JANTZ

PICKING WINNERS CAN BE A LOSER

Figuring NHL winners is a small part of the game; you have to beat the odds too. When they're 7½:5, you risk \$150 to make \$100, and you need to pick winners about 67% of the time to show a profit.



COMBINED '89, '90, '91 NHL PLAYOFF RECORDS FOR FAVORITES		MONEY/WON/LOST (Using \$100 as a reference.)
	With 7 1/2:5 odds:	With 8 1/2:5 odds:
First Round	58% (83-60-1) \$8,300/\$9,000	\$8,300/\$10,200
Second Round	67% (40-26) \$4,000/\$3,900	\$4,000/\$4,420
Third Round	74% (23-8) \$2,300/\$1,200	\$2,300/\$1,360

that the only winner in the above example is the bookmaker. With a "puck line," the betting public barely has a chance to win.

The bookie's argument is that on a "puck line," there is no vigorish—the 10-percent commission paid to the bookie on losing bets. You may not lose that extra 10 percent when you lose, but you'll still lose. At the very least, you won't win often.

Due to gamblers' complaints, the bookmakers were forced to change the odds for

their best customers. The smart bettors will usually bet on the NHL regular season with what is known as a "Canadian Line."

With a Canadian Line, the bookmaker puts out one number and combines it with a money line. It sounds complicated, but it's the only way you can bet if you're inclined to wager on hockey. Here's how it works: Let's say the Montreal Canadiens are favored by one goal over the Minnesota North Stars, with the underdog -20. The trans-

lation breaks down like this: If you like the Canadiens, you're laying one goal. If you take Minnesota, you're getting one goal, but you're risking \$120 to win \$100. It could also work the opposite way; sometimes the favorite is laying the price. For example, if the Chicago Blackhawks were one goal over the Philadelphia Flyers, with the favorite -60 (8:5), the scenario breaks down this way: Using \$100 as your reference base, if you take the Blackhawks, you're laying one goal and \$160 to win \$100. But if you back the underdog Flyers, you get the one goal, plus you get back (7:5)—\$140 to \$100 if you win.

During the playoffs, however, you usually just bet with a straight money line.

For example, in last year's Stanley Cup finals games, the North Stars were 8-9 favorites. In simple betting terms, if you bet Minnesota, you layed 9:5. You risked \$180 to win \$100. If your money was on the underdog Penguins, you received 8:5, or \$160 in potential winnings compared to the \$100 you stood to lose.

Since the '88-89 season, some distinct differences have developed between regular-season and postseason betting on hockey. That difference is the odds.

During the opening round of the 1989 playoffs, the favorites went 25-19. That looks pretty good, but it's deceptive because the favorites were an average of 7½:5 throughout the playoffs. If you factor in the odds, you

SPORT ODDS

actually lost betting the favorites.

If you bet to win \$100 on every game, you would've won a total of \$2,500. But look at those 19 losses—you were out \$150 on each one, and when you multiplied that by 19, you were down \$2,850.

This is a problem particular to hockey wagering. You can identify strong trends, but so can the bookies.

Other characteristics of the '89 postseason? The home teams went 28-16 in the first round, while over indulgers came in at 22-20-2. Favorites finished 25-19. In the second round, the favorites went 10-11, with the home ice going 13-8. Betting the under netted a 12-7-2 mark. The favorite was 7-3-1 in the third round, but the home ice cracked with a 3-8 mark. The betting proposition that stuck out during the '89 playoffs was the profitable 8-2-1 support for the under.

In the 1990 postseason, the favorites in the opening round went 30-18-1—a small profit once you factor in the 7½:5 you lay. Home ice was also very strong, going 34-15 (69 percent). Even though you were giving strong odds at home (an average of 8½:5), you still made a tidy profit. The totals went under, going 25-

22-2. In the second round, the favorites went 13-8, home ice was 14-7, and the under held up, going 12-9.

The third round was very strong for the favorite, which went 8-2, with the home team at 5-5. The goaltending was good again, supporting the under at 4-2-4.

Last year's postseason followed a similar pattern. Round 1 showed the favorites at 28-23 (a loser again), with the home squads at 29-22. Goaltending was shoddy, and the over wagers were 26-20-5. Incredibly, the least amount of total goals scored in any one game was three. Round 2 was strong for the favorites as well as the hosts—both had marks of 17-7. The goaltending reversed itself and became excellent, as the unders went 13-5-6 (72 percent).

The third round was again powerful for the favorite and the home team as each went 8-3. For the totals bettors, the overs went 6-5.

So what do all the stats mean to the average bettor? That hockey is a risky proposition. You'll notice that I haven't discussed the Stanley Cup finals in any detail. That's because there's really not enough there to generalize about.

Back to the statistics. In the earlier rounds, the favorites were a combined 83-60-1. Although these numbers appear strong, this was a losing proposition. The favorite averaged out to 7½:5, meaning you would have actually lost a total of \$700 betting to win \$100 per game (\$8,300 in winnings, compared with \$9,000 in losses). Home teams were powerful, finishing 91-53 (63 percent), but betting the over was a no-win proposition (70-65-9).

In the combined second rounds, the favorites were 40-26; great-sounding numbers, but virtually break-even considering the odds. Home ice was super, hosts going 44-22 (67 percent). And goaltenders rewarded the under takers, who wound up 34-24-8 (59 percent).

The combined third round showed the favorites finally making big money, going 23-8-1 (74 percent). Home teams were 16-16, while the goaltending was again stingy and helped bettors of the under finish 17-10-5 (63 percent).

Playoff favorites don't pay off on the whole. Home teams, for instance, win with great regularity, going 151-92 in the first three rounds over the past three years. However, in most cases, the home team is a heavy favorite.

If you do wager on the pucks, you must be patient and wait for a home dog. On the other hand, the stat that jumps out is the under (total goals scored) in rounds 2 and 3. Combining the second and third rounds shows that the unders went 54-31-13 (64 percent). This could be due to goalies getting over first-round jitters. Anyway, goals come at a premium in these rounds, compared with the opening round.

In the last three seasons, the Stanley Cup finals had parity, which explains why the underdogs went 10-7 and home teams 7-10. Over/under totals were basically break-even at 8-8-1.

If you bet on hockey, be careful. Stick with the home dog, and play the under in the second and third rounds—then pray for hot goaltending. ★



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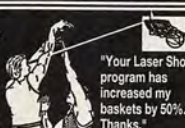
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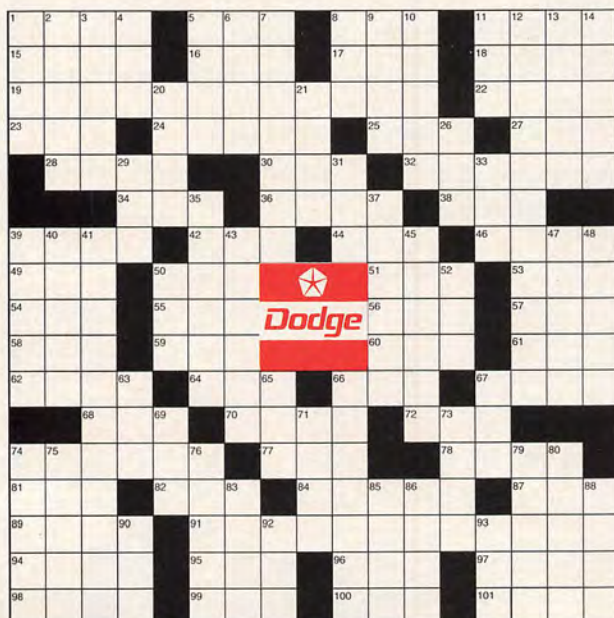
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The Dodge SPORTword

Puzzle

By Stanley Newman

"HOCKEY'S RETIRED NUMBERS"



Puzzle answers on page 25

Across

1. Gordie ___ (Red Wings' No. 9)
5. Fuel-economy rating: Abbr.
8. On a streak
11. Alphabet beginning
15. "___ Jury" (Mickey Spillane novel): 2 wds.
16. Former Mideast nation: Abbr.
17. Bobby ___ (Bruins' No. 4)
18. 1950s outfielder Elmer
19. Bruins' No. 7: 2 wds.
22. Homecoming attendee
23. French Open segment
24. Strand on the bases
25. NASA affirmative
27. Fishing equipment
28. 1990 World Series winners
30. Napoleon's title: Abbr.
32. "___ or trade me": 2 wds.
34. Thumbs-up vote
36. Gossage or Gedman
38. Finance degree: Abbr.
39. Move back from the line of scrimmage
42. Increases
44. Watson or Landry
46. Fast airplanes: Abbr.
49. Feel sorry about
50. NL East team: Abbr.
51. Barbecue bit
53. Infield bounce
54. Coffee server
55. One ___ time (individually): 2 wds.
56. Ring result: Abbr.
57. Air-conditioner unit: Abbr.
58. "Rocky ___" (1982 film)
59. Relay-race portion
60. Baseball mitt application
61. Corn portion
62. Exam
64. Soccer official
66. Hill-building insect
67. NBAer, in headlines
68. Warm-up area
70. Gilbert and Carew
72. Bat wood
74. ___ Simmons (1990 John Wooden Award winner)
77. Step on the ___ (accelerate)
78. Above the strike zone
81. Toronto's province: Abbr.
82. Pocket hit that leaves the 10 pin
84. ___ Joe McCarthy
87. Mauna ___ (Hawaiian peak)
89. Shoreline feature
91. Flyers' No. 1: 2 wds.
94. Have ___ with (know well): 2 wds.
95. Confederate soldier, for short
96. Hitting instructor Charlie
97. Namath's trouble spot
98. Give for a while
99. Orioles owner Jacobs
100. Baseball's training period: Abbr.
101. "Somebody bet ___ bay": 2 wds.

Down

1. Where waders reach
2. Additional
3. National League president
4. Elongated fish
5. Contemplate
6. Cool ___ Bell
7. Hall of Fame pitcher Alexander and namesakes
8. ___ Stove League
9. 1970s White Sox infielder Jorge
10. Boy Scout group
11. Wade Boggs' pride: Abbr.
12. Flyers' No. 4: 2 wds.
13. Maintain to be true
14. "ADVANTAGE: ___"
20. Otherwise
21. "Final Four" game
26. Separate J and N
29. Recolor
31. A proportion: Abbr.
33. Bodybuilder's belly muscles
35. Brian ___ (Blues' No. 11)
37. Former Tigers slugger Willie ___
39. Lemon or lime
40. Larry ___ (Red Wings' No. 6)
41. Islanders' No. 5: 2 wds.
43. Barclay ___ (Blues' No. 8)
45. Stan ___ (Blackhawks' No. 21)
47. ___ bases (sluggers' stat)
48. Short streak
50. Catcher Butera
52. Sudan-born basketball
63. Pac-___ conference
65. San Francisco forecast
66. Attacks
67. Half of Rodriguez's nickname
69. Volleyball need
71. "___ Yankees" (baseball musical)
73. National League park
74. Union group
75. Hole ___ (duffer's dream): 2 wds.
76. Yvon ___ (Capitals' No. 7)
79. ___ Hall (Blackhawks' No. 1)
80. Sharpened
83. Banana throwaway
85. Harvest the crops
86. Cowboy-boot attachment
88. Suited to ___: 2 wds.
90. Pass receiver
92. Box-score column heading
93. Onetime movie studio



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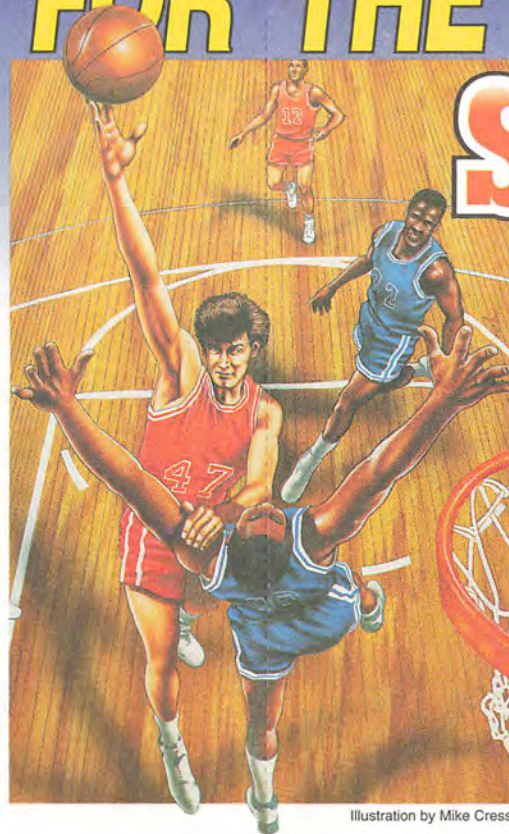
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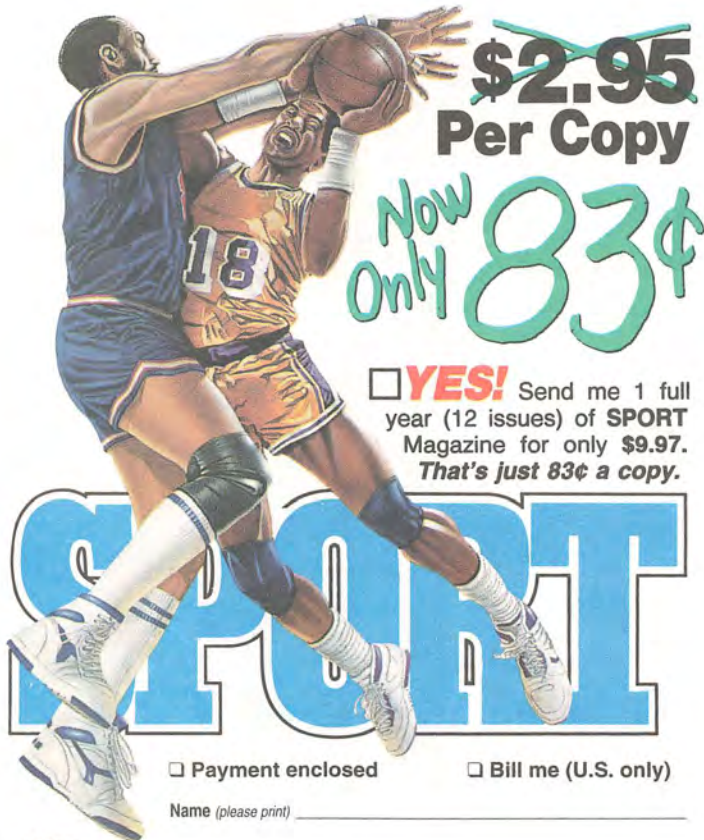
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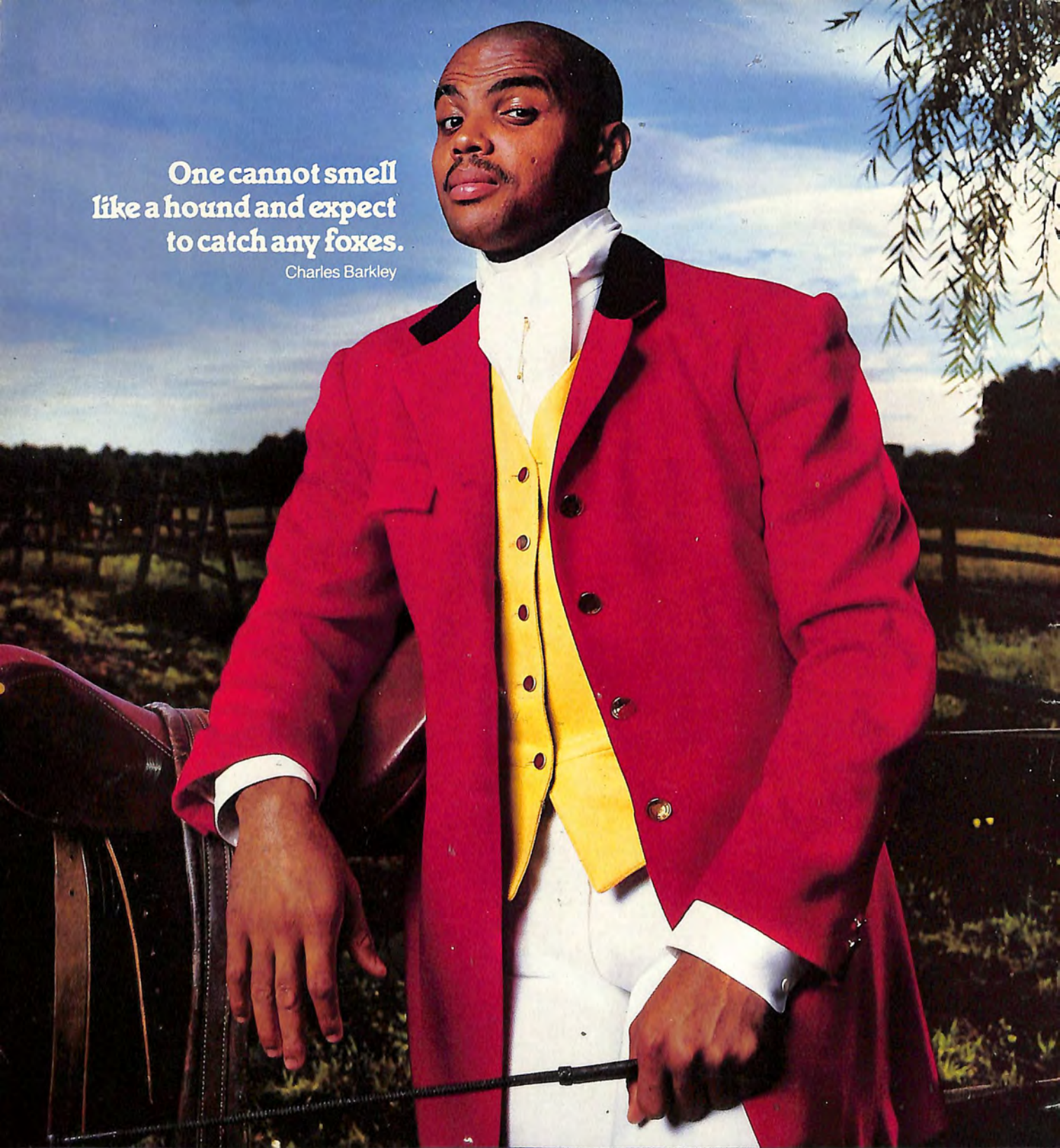
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